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Toronto metro

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Alan Ly is cooking food for the whole city from his home kitchen. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Women make better cyclists too

CYCLING STUDY

... meaning they are less likely than men to end up in hospital

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Hazel Anderson is used to being passed by "fast men in lycra" when bicycling on Toronto streets.

"I'm a proud slow cyclist," the British ex-pat says.

She's anything but surprised by a new study showing women are safer cyclists than men.

The study, done by researchers at the University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia and published in the medical journal BMJ, found male cyclists were three times more likely to wind up in the hospital than their female counterparts.

The researchers analyzed 3,690 hospital visits by cyclists in Canada between 2006 and 2011, looking at variables like age, mode share and helmet laws. More than 75 per cent of cyclists hospitalized in that time were men.

"For all injury causes, sex was the only significant explanatory variable," write the study's authors.

The study attributed the results to female cyclists' "lower propensity for risk-taking," noting women are more likely to ride slowly or stick to separated bike lanes.

"I definitely agree that women tend to ride more slowly," Anderson said. "Women calculate risks in a different way than men and tend to be more cautious.

"I guess we'd prefer to be on our bikes and not in the middle of the road."

Similar studies have examined driving habits and found lower injury and fatality rates among women drivers.

Hazel Anderson says she is a 'proud slow cyclist,' in reference to a recent university study. CONTRIBUTED

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Indonesia using trained elephants to control forest fires. **World**

Hemingway home on the move

DEVELOPMENT

Selby Hotel to be included as part of new 50-storey site

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

A heritage hotel in Toronto that was once home to Ernest Hemingway is on the move.

Construction crews near Sherbourne and Bloor are in the midst of relocating the Selby Hotel, also known as the Gooderham House. The 19th-century Victorian home will be moved closer to the sidewalk before eventually being incorporated into a 50-storey residential tower being built on the site.

"It actually has to be moved twice. We have to move it once to build the underground garage and then move it again back to its final resting place," said MOD Developments founder Gary Switzer.

MOD is collaborating on the project with Tricon Capital and Chicago-based architecture firm bKL.

HISTORY

Ernest Hemingway stayed at the Selby Hotel while working as a writer for the Toronto Star in the 1920s.

The building is being prepped by construction crews for a move to its new home closer to the sidewalk. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

This is how the hotel is expected to look when incorporated at the base of MOD and Tricon Capital's 50-storey Selby tower.
COURTESY MOD DEVELOPMENTS

Once home to the wealthy Gooderham family, the house served as a girl's school before becoming a hotel in 1912. Hemingway stayed at the Selby during his stint as a writer for the Toronto Star in the 1920s.

The building received full heritage designation in 1989.

Both MOD and Tricon have utilized heritage buildings in other developments, notably 5 St. Joseph's St., and Switzer said the Selby will be converted to host amenities for residents along with retail space.

> **We're taking all the precautions. You certainly don't want the thing falling down while you're moving it.**
> Gary Switzer

"We see it as an opportunity for true city-building that incorporates the past with the present," he said.

"So much of downtown Toronto was demolished in the '60s, and what we have left should be kept. If it means that the only way they can be saved is by integrating taller buildings behind them, then that's a great solution."

The Selby Hotel circa 1940. COURTESY MOD DEVELOPMENTS

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Some Toronto police officers started wearing body cameras earlier in May as part of a pilot project. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE PHOTO

OPP testing body cams on T.O. officers

TECHNOLOGY

Wearing the devices could cause privacy issues: Professor

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

The Ontario Provincial Police is considering equipping officers with body cameras, and Toronto police will serve as the case study.

Body-worn cameras would be a big step — and expense — for the provincial police force. The OPP tried out dashboard cams in a pilot project that ended in 2007. Cameras haven't been used since.

"We recognized that technology was changing at a very accelerating rate and, realistically, going forward with a very significant investment in this type of technology could have very well resulted in it becoming obsolete in a very short period of time," OPP spokesman Sgt. Peter Leon said about the 2007 decision.

Since then, the focus in policing has shifted to cameras attached to officers' chests. Toronto police is testing them on 100 officers in a pilot project running through March.

"There are certainly pros, and I'm sure there will be cons as well, and that's something we're going to have to look at when the pilot is complete and that information is made available to us," Leon said.

It's too early to say if the OPP has the money needed to equip officers with cameras, he said.

"I think it's important to look at what's available and then make determinations," he said.

Christopher Schneider, a Brandon University professor who has studied police cameras and technology, said using body-worn cameras would be much more complex for the OPP than their trial with dash cams.

Because the cameras go everywhere with officers — like private homes and bathrooms — there are privacy concerns and laws relevant to that haven't really been developed, he said. But ongoing controversies about use of force in videos captured by citizens means police can't afford to wait any longer, he said.

"It's these reasons that police are rolling out body cameras in the way that they are, and they're exploring these things even though there's not a lot of policy or law to determine how it is they're supposed to be using them," he said.

$500,000

The budget for the Toronto project, which includes cameras, software, docking stations and storage. Cameras themselves cost between $600 and $1,000.

EQUALITY

Poll finds low support for increased police spending

More than half of Ontarians surveyed in a recent poll want their tax dollars to go toward social services, including initiatives to tackle poverty, while less than a quarter want that money put toward more policing.

A random survey of 2,506 Ontario residents conducted by polling firm Mainstreet Research found 53 per cent of respondents prefer their future tax dollars be spent on social services such as education, affordable housing and transit. Twenty-three per cent said they want to spend more on policing services, while 24 per cent said they were not sure how they wanted their money spent.

The Nov. 1 poll was commissioned by the African Canadian Legal Clinic, which wanted to take the pulse of the province amid "a climate where we continue to see, particularly in Toronto, an increase in spending towards police budgets," said Roger Love, a lawyer with the non-profit organization.

"I think it definitely goes to show that Ontarians believe that we can't police our way to a safer community, we can't police our way to a more equitable community — and that a lot of the problems or the social ills which are being dealt with by way of policing are probably better dealt with by injecting more money into social services that can attack the root of the problem."

Budget talks between the Toronto Police Service and its civilian oversight board continue this week, with the board expected to approve the force's request for an increase at its meeting Thursday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Assault charges dropped against two constables

Criminal assault charges against two Toronto Police officers have been dropped due to a lack of evidence, even though Ontario's police oversight body was able to conclude the officers made an unlawful arrest and used excessive force.

Senior Crown prosecutor John Pearson told a Scarborough court last week there is no reasonable prospect of convicting constables Kevin Drake and Dorna Kennedy and that it would not be in the public interest to continue.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sculptures stolen from gallery

THEFT

Police probe loss of pieces valued at about $2,000

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Christi Johnson couldn't believe it when she realized two sculptures had been stolen from her gallery.

"I was heartbroken," said the owner of Great Spirit gallery in The Beach. "We support really humble local artists. We are not a big, pretentious type of gallery. This is really unfortunate."

And, to be honest, she was a bit hurt — a feeling that's rippled through the community and across social media since the theft.

"It's like stealing from your neighbour," Johnson said, describing Great Spirit as a family-run, community-oriented shop looking to boost the area. "Everyone in the community seems to have taken it personally.

Johnson said the sculptures, snatched up last week while the gallery was open, were made by local artist Julie Champagna and had been in the gallery for about three months. They're valued at about $2,000.

It's not the first time thieves have struck. Since the gallery opened about a year ago, Johnson has lost a couple of other small pieces, valued at less than $100. Police confirmed they are investigating but said no suspects have been identified.

Johnson is hopeful someone will spot the sculptures and bring them back. If it happens, she's promising not to ask questions — or press charges.

"I'd just say thank you and have a lovely day," she said.

The sculptures stolen from the Great Spirit gallery last week. FACEBOOK

LABOUR

Province looks to close gender wage gap

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Representatives from the Ontario Ministry of Labour are in Ottawa today as part of a provincewide initiative to solve the gender wage gap.

The public "town hall" style gathering is taking place at the Cartier Room in the Courtyard Marriott on Dalhousie Street. The event starts at 12 p.m. and runs until 1:30 p.m. An open forum will follow a brief presentation, and assistance for childcare expenses is being offered.

"Gender wage gaps show that workplace inequalities continue to exist," reads the background summary online. "Over the next several months, we will examine the causes and effects of the gender wage gap on women of all ages, backgrounds and abilities across the economic spectrum."

Similar events will take place over the next three months in cities across Ontario.

For those not attending a town hall, information can also be submitted online at the ministry's website.

IN BRIEF

Alternative medicine practitioner charged with sexual assault

Police say a Toronto alternative medicine practitioner is facing charges in a sexual-assault investigation.

Police say a 22-year-old woman went to the Natural Healings Health Solutions clinic on Bloor Street West on Nov. 5 to be treated for back pain.

Investigators allege that she saw a man practising alternative medicine and was sexually assaulted during the treatments.

Mark Lannard, 53, is charged with two counts of sexual assault and is scheduled to appear in court on Dec. 16. Investigators are asking anyone with information related to the case to contact police. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Opposing views welcome

NEW POLICY

Why one local school plans to ditch 'political correctness'

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

If you're starting your studies at Toronto's Harris Institute next year, don't expect to see any trigger warnings on your course material.

The 26-year-old polytechnic, which teaches music production and management, has instituted a policy that takes aim at "political correctness" and encourages free speech. It's an attempt to clarify that students may be exposed to difficult or controversial ideas, said school founder John Harris.

"We've got courses that talk about hip-hop culture and rap culture and for some people those are sensitive areas in terms of racism, sexism, et cetera," he said.

All students beginning in the March semester will be required to sign the policy. Per the rules, students and faculty who are found to have "shouted down an opposing view" can be placed on probation and dismissed if there's a second offence.

Harris Institute founder John Harris says learning to discuss and confront controversial ideas is an important part of preparing students for life in the music business. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

> **The answer to bad speech is good speech.**
> John Harris

Harris stressed that the policy was written after four months of consultation with students and faculty.

"In the end, the decision to approve the policy was unanimous," he said.

The new rules are a response to an increase in student complaints about words and ideas being introduced in the classroom, Harris said. Complaints have ranged from instructors using swear words to concerns about discussing race in the context of popular music.

In one case, Harris said a guest lecture by punk rock drummer Martin Atkins — who wrote a book titled Welcome to the Music Business, You're F---ed — elicited complaints from students.

"He's extremely outspoken and uses language that might upset certain individuals," Harris said. "But he's got valuable opinions about being in the music industry even if they're abrasive to some."

Harris likened the school's new policy to parental advisory warnings on music albums. "It's a similar mechanism in that people are being warned in advance that there might be something sensitive in there," he said.

Political correctness is "possibly the biggest issue in post-secondary education," Harris said, claiming that as many as 290 guest lectures have been cancelled across North America and Europe after students objected to the content.

RELATIONSHIPS

It's a match — even if you aren't rich

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

If you're a looking to marry a millionaire, there's a place for you to go on Friday night.

Absolute Bachelor Club is hosting a meet-and-greet at a Yorkville art gallery so its founder, matchmaker Natacha Noël, can screen potential dates for three different millionaires — two men and one woman.

And you don't need oodles of money to get in on the action, Noël said.

The key to success with a millionaire, she said, is matching their values. That can involve understanding the demands of business travel and social events.

Natacha Noël says wanting to marry a person with money doesn't necessarily make you a gold-digger. CONTRIBUTED

"I'm looking for any man or woman who knows what a special someone would want," Noël said. "Once I have a physical match I will actually dig deeper and ask questions, like if they want to have children or not."

CRIME

Third person charged in killing of spa owner
The son of slain Mississauga spa owner Ming-Chien "Teresa" Hsin has been charged in connection with her death. Peel Region police charged Eric Lu, 25, with first-degree murder Wednesday. The Toronto resident is now the third person facing a charge of first-degree murder in connection with Hsin's April killing. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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RWANDA

Man obtains reprieve from deportation

A Rwandan man facing genocide-related charges in his homeland has had his deportation put on hold amid a last-ditch plea to the new Liberal government to intervene.

Jean Berchmans Habinshuti, 60, was set to be deported to Rwanda on Monday. However, at a detention review Wednesday, the Canada Border Services Agency told the inmate at Lindsay provincial jail that his deportation has been put off, without explanation. No new date has been scheduled, said his lawyer Raoul Boulakia.

Border officials have denied his plea to remain here despite affidavits from expert witnesses — academic André Guichaoua, who has testified at international tribunals, former Rwandan prime minister Faustin Twagiramungu and human-rights activist René Mugenzi — that he's innocent and the charges in Rwanda are politically motivated.

"Every expert who has commented on this case states it is clear Mr. Habinshuti served an official who was killed for being opposed to the genocide," said Boulakia, who has asked Immigration Minister John McCallum's office for a reprieve.

Habinshuti served as private secretary to the late Rwandan prime minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana. He joined his wife and family in St. Catharines in 2011 and later filed an asylum claim. Although he never faced war-crime charges, Ottawa deemed him inadmissible for his ties to the regime.

Over three months in 1994, an estimated one million Rwandans perished in attacks mostly aimed at the minority Tutsi population by extremist Hutus.

CBSA officials declined to comment on Habinshuti's case or the deferral of his deportation. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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The letter by the CEO of TD in the book Mr. Zinger's Hat.
RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Schools ban free books

EDUCATION

Corporate logo on material behind York board's action

Some 10,000 Grade 1 students in York Region may never find out what happened to Mr. Zinger's hat.

Mr. Zinger's Hat is the picture book the TD Grade One Book Giveaway program is distributing this year to all Grade 1 students across the country — all but those enrolled in the Commission scolaire de Montréal, the Saanich School District in B.C. and the York Region District School Board (YRDSB).

According to a policy introduced in 1995, the YRDSB does not approve the distribution of materials in which logos or messages of political or for-profit organizations appear.

> **Our schools are not advertising mediums for corporations.**
> Licinio Miguelo, York Region District School Board

Previously, Toronto Dominion Bank Group's logo has appeared annually on the cover of the giveaway book, since it fully sponsors the program. But after some school boards voiced concerns over overt branding, the Canadian Children's Book Centre, the non-profit organization that runs the program, removed the logo from the cover. It does appear on a letter from the CEO of TD on the first page of the book.

"We would not approve a book with a logo on it regardless of where the logo is," said Licinio Miguelo, YRDSB senior manager of corporate communications, "whether it's on page one or page 10."

The Toronto District School Board has continued to approve the books. Ryan Bird, communications officer for the TDSB, says it's about finding a balance.

"I think it comes down to the appropriate level of advertising and informing people where something may have come from or who's responsible for providing a program — in this case, a book."

This year, it says on the book's cover: "The TD Grade One Book Giveaway, a program of the Canadian Children's Book Centre."

Miguelo says the York board would accept the book if it stopped at that — even with the word "TD," as it's part of the program's name.

The letter enclosed in the book, however, violates the policy that says the board shall not approve information from for-profit organizations.

"The policy is like a tempest in a teapot over a little logo," said Charlotte Teeple, executive director of the book centre. "We're just giving a beautiful book."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Startup matches home cooking with your cravings

FOOD

Cooks apply and go through vetting process

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Picture this: There's a certain type of dish you're craving, but there's no restaurants in the city serving it.

In a city as diverse as Toronto, there's a good chance someone nearby may be cooking exactly what you're after. A new startup aims to connect both parties.

From dishes as complex as classic Greek moussaka to something as simple as spaghetti with tomato sauce, the cooks on MealSurfers are dishing it up — and offering it to the city at large.

"We really wanted to help our communities get affordable, authentic home-cooked food," said Ali Jiwani, one of the project's four co-founders. "It's a pretty cheap and convenient way to eat."

MealSurfer cook Alan Ly prepares a gnocchi dish in his home kitchen. He'll share it with the masses via the platform. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

It works like this.

Potential cooks apply and go through a vetting process to determine if they have something worth offering. Some are culinary arts graduates, experienced cooks or new immigrants with unique dishes, Jiwani said. Others are just everyday people with a knack for culinary creations.

"Most times you go grocery shopping, you buy things and you never finish them," said Alan Ly, who works in the financial industry and was one of the first people to start cooking for the service. "MealSurfers allows me to cook, which I like, and I never waste food."

Once a cook is approved, their dishes are posted on the MealSurfers website, where customers can browse the "menu" and make selections based on location, pickup or drop-off options and price.

Nearly 200 cooks have signed up since the project launched in the GTA two months ago. The plan is to expand into other Canadian cities.

Everyone involved has been paid a home visit to make sure their kitchens are clean and up for the job, Jiwani said. Plus, MealSurfers has developed a 25-page resource guide — condensed from the city's public health and safety guidelines — and cooks are required to read and abide by it.

There's also a rating system where customers provide feedback, Jiwani said.

"If your food makes somebody sick just once, you're automatically kicked out," he said. "Safety is our number one priority. The cooks have to earn their customers' trust."

MEALSURFERS

From left, Ali Jiwani, Shubhendu Tripathi, Etan Shapiro and Justin McDonald. CONTRIBUTED

MealSurfers' founders are also foodies in their own respects. These are their preferred dishes from MealSurfers chefs.

— Ali: Anne's quinoa burger, made of organic quinoa and veggies on a whole wheat bun.

— Justin: Alan Ly's butter chicken, includes cilantro and served with a side of roti.

— Etan: Saffana Zamily's Turkish meatballs, cooked with onions and tomato sauce.

— Shubhendu: David Bro's shrimp fried rice, all locally sourced, fresh ingredients doused in a sauce of water, honey, soy sauce or wine.

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2

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3

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4

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5

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6

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‘Santa Claus didn’t forget me’

CHRISTMAS

Charity to gift thousands of disadvantaged kids this year

It was just a box holding a pencil case, mittens and a toque, but it meant a lot to the young Danisius Tisseverasinghe.

He thought the gifts came express from the North Pole, but the delivery was from the Toronto Star’s Santa Claus Fund, a charity which raises money for Christmas presents for underprivileged children under 13.

In their early years in Canada, Danisius’s family lived in an apartment in Scarborough. They came here from Sri Lanka in the early 1990s, refugees of the civil war which lasted three decades and killed 70,000 people, including Danisius’s uncle. Danisius’s father’s house was destroyed in the war.

Danny was two years old when they moved. He had severe asthma, so his mother Alphonsa stayed home to look after him. His dad worked as a Sinhalese and Tamil translator with Immigration Canada.

“We were going through very difficult times, so we couldn’t buy anything,” his father Douglas said.

Danisius was always happy to get a Star box, and his parents welcomed it, too. “For my parents, it was like a way for their child to belong in Canadian culture,” Danisius said.

Like many kids, Danisius was told Santa would reward him with presents if he was good, or bring him nothing if he was naughty. But what happens to the girl or boy who is left empty-handed although they were good all year?

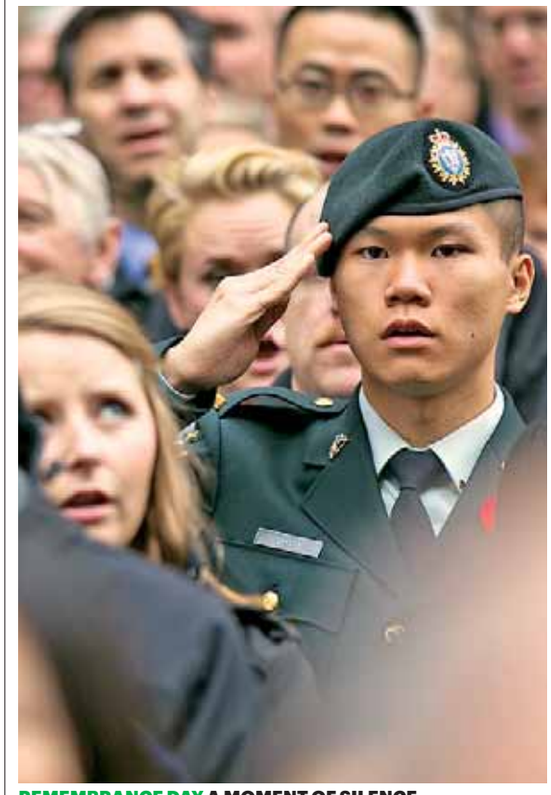
About 45,000 kids across the GTA risk feeling left out this Christmas if not for the Santa Claus Fund. The Star is aiming to raise $1.7 million to send each child a parcel including essentials such as warm clothes, a toothbrush and toothpaste, as well as age-appropriate toys and books.

“I don’t want a child to go back to school in January and be the one who’s left out,” said Danisius, who is now 26 and drives a TTC bus.

He has donated to kids’ Christmas charities the last two winters. He plans to give to the Santa Claus Fund this time.

“When everybody has something, even if it’s small, it shows ‘Hey, Santa Claus didn’t forget me.’” TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

*Based on a direct comparison of Meridian’s featured Good To Grow High Interest Savings Account against the competition’s posted rates for balances at $5,000 for the most comparable offering posted online on their respective websites, as of October 13, 2015. 1.50% interest is calculated on the closing daily balance and is paid monthly. The rate shown is on an annualized basis and is subject to change without notice. ™Trademarks of Meridian Credit Union Limited. 09/2015



REMEMBRANCE DAY A MOMENT OF SILENCE
Thousands of hushed onlookers, including veterans and members of the military, crowded the intersection of Queen and Bay Streets on Wednesday to witness the downtown Remembrance Day ceremony and to honour Canada’s veterans and fallen soldiers. Mayor John Tory delivered remarks at the ceremony, which included the traditional reading of In Flanders Fields, a flyover of military aircrafts and the laying of wreaths. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

POLICE

Investigation underway after body found

A person without vital signs has been found near the Birchmount Road and St. Clair Avenue East area, according to Toronto paramedics.

Toronto police said officers received a call about “unknown trouble” in the area around 4:30 p.m. Wednesday. They found a body at the scene when they arrived. The homicide squad is investigating — a routine procedure for any deaths reported to police. Police added that road closures may be in effect later on in the evening.

Live footage from CP24 showed detectives standing around a bungalow on Elfreda Road and canvassing houses nearby.

Paramedics did not give any indication of the person’s age or gender, saying they are still looking into what happened.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

66% Spike In Recent Foreclosures Plus Aging Baby Boomers Downsizing Creating Discounted Property Frenzy In U.S.

New Real Estate Bonanza

Right now while you are reading this, hedge funds are buying U.S. property in mass. Foreign nationals are loading up on houses as fast as they can. Some savvy individuals are snapping up housing in the U.S. like never before.

In October, Reuters reported private investment firm Starwood Capital Group got in the game. They purchased 23,262 mid-rise and garden-style apartments for a whopping $5.37 billion. Other hedge funds are buying entire subdivisions under construction.

The Chinese are the number one overseas investors of U.S. real estate. Often they will buy 10 condos at once, sight unseen.

Does all this investment activity show the U.S. headed for another property bubble? The answer is no.

Demographics are driving demand for rental property to heights unseen in American history. Bloomberg Business says rents are only going higher.

The Millennials saddled with student debt, are choosing to rent. Others want to live in cities and avoid long commutes home ownership often demands.

One of the fastest growing demographic segments in the U.S. is those over age 65. Their downsizing activity is flooding the market with discounted property.

Foreclosures, Flips & Flowing Money

Foreclosures clogged in the U.S. courts are now surging. Those that know how are gaining windfalls of opportunity for flips or portfolio growth.

Yet individual investors are asking, "Can I still find good deals in U.S. property?" The answer is an emphatic YES.

Real estate investors on the Turnkey Trainings team know the right way to buy property. No matter what the economy is doing. Using their proprietary techniques,

Warren Buffet told CNBC he would buy a couple hundred thousand single family homes if he could.

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They will reveal these breakthrough strategies at the FREE events in the Toronto area. When you attend you'll see many successful former students who made a bundle in U.S. real estate.

The Toronto couple pictured here, were able to buy an entire trailer park in Florida for half off. Their investment brings them a 23% net annual return on their money. Would you like these types of returns?

Another Canadian couple found and flipped a property in 2 weeks to pocket a cool $40,000! Imagine if you could do that just a couple of times a year.

You can if you gain the knowledge. You will after attending this FREE educational event where you will find out;

- Super simple method for getting sellers to chase you. The sellers of the trailer park mentioned above emailed and texted the buyers over 100 times! Hear the secret strategy to make sellers want to deal with you!
- How to get funding for your deals, so you never have to tie up your own money or use your credit! We'll give you a free funding certificate just for attending!
- How to beat the house flipping wizards by becoming a wholesaler to hedge funds
- New zero money down strategies! News to you no matter how many real estate seminars you may have attended!
- How to close property deals over the phone in 9 minutes or less

A Blueprint for Profiting from Real Estate Safely

No matter how many real estate seminars you've attended. Or courses you've taken.

This FREE educational event shows you how to create real wealth... fast. The master's level secrets will make real estate investing seem like a steal.

You'll learn how to find real estate as much as 70% off, close discounted deals in minutes, and flip them in days or rent for passive income. No experience needed.

These breakthrough strategies have closed 12,000 property deals in the last 15 years...

They've earned investors healthy returns, often in as little as 7 days...

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

ROM adds new Martian meteorites to collection

SCIENCE

Researchers hope additions will shed light on Earth's past

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

These meteorites were recently added to ROM's collection of Martian rocks. Researchers hope they'll provide a better understanding of Mars' geological history. COURTESY OF BRIAN BOYLE/ROM

22

The number of Martian rocks in the ROM's collection, making it one of the largest in the world.

Mars has landed at the ROM.

Well, sort of.

Researchers at the Royal Ontario Museum are hopeful the acquisition of three rare meteorites will help them learn more about one of our solar system's most captivating planets.

While thousands of meteorites from space are stored in various museums across the globe, only about 100 of them are believed to have come directly from Mars.

Meteorites — or, in simple terms, chunks of planets — fall randomly every day as a result of asteroid collisions. What's rare is being able to find them once they land, said Ian Nicklin, a technician in the museum's Earth sciences department.

"Almost three quarters of them fall in the oceans and we are never able to find them," said Nicklin, adding collectors spend time wandering in deserts and other open places where there are no trees or water.

The ROM's keeping the details about where their new meteorites were found — along with their value — under wraps.

But, Nicklin said, many of their previous meteorites have come from the Sahara in northwest Africa and the Antarctic.

Meteorites are importance because they help reveal information about the origin of the solar system and the formation of planets, said Nicklin.

"We hope these sample will help us better understand the geology of Mars," he said. "We have theories about how our own planet started to form but being able to compare ideas with another planet is fascinating. It helps put the Earth in a context."

EDUCATION

Ex-principal has checkered past

One judge called his behaviour "dishonest and fraudulent." A judicial officer expressed "unease" with his credibility.

Once a lawyer, he was disbarred in 1990 after confessing to stealing money from a client and pilfering funds from a trust account. He spent three years in jail for theft.

David Carson Bird rebounded from that by becoming principal of a private boarding school in St. Catharines for 13 years — until it abruptly shut down two years ago. At least five families were left claiming they're owed upward of $22,000 each in lost tuition.

Last month, a Newmarket judge ordered him to reimburse the family of a former student, concluding that Bird dishonestly avoided responsibility for a tuition repayment once he realized his school was failing.

Bird remains on staff at two organizations for private schools: he is a consultant for the Ontario Federation of Independent Schools, and is listed as the treasurer of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development's Ontario chapter.

OFIS executive director Barbara Bierman said she didn't know about Bird's disbarment and confessed theft, while board members of the Ontario ASCD did not respond to requests for comment this week.

In an emailed response to a list of questions, Bird declined to comment on his criminal conviction, disbarment and confessed theft.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Ajax swim club owner arrested for sex assault

The owner of an Ajax, Ont., swimming club is facing sexual assault and luring charges related to an incident that allegedly took place four years ago. Durham regional police say the man was arrested without incident on Tuesday. Thirty-five-year-old Matthew Bell, of Ajax, is charged with sexual assault, sexual exploitation and four counts of luring a person under 18.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sisters race to bring back mom

RESCUE MISSION

Woman found in psychiatric hospital in her native Ghana

The Boachie-Yiadom sisters, from left, Stacey, 22, Drucilla, 20, and Stephanie, 24, pose outside the Toronto Star building last month. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The news headline out of Ghana was horrifying enough: "Elderly disabled woman accused of witchcraft narrowly escapes lynching."

But more horrifying for four Toronto sisters was the discovery that the mentally ill woman who was attacked by a mob while wandering naked through the streets of Accra was actually their long-lost mother.

"It was very difficult for us to see that," Stacey Boachie-Yiadom, 22, said of learning her mother's whereabouts through online news reports this summer. "It's not just because she's our mom. Throughout her mental-health ordeal, she always cared about us, no matter what others said about her. It's just that she's sick."

Now, the sisters face the daunting task of getting their mother, Barbara, 53 — a Canadian citizen who is missing all of her identification — out of the psychiatric hospital in her native Ghana, where she was admitted after the attack, and back to Toronto, where they believe she'll get better care.

> **We are between a rock and a hard place.**
> Stephanie Boachie-Yiadom

For weeks, they have been trying to deal with distant relatives, Canadian officials and hospital administrators in Ghana in their bid to connect with the woman who disappeared from their lives in 2009. The sisters had been raised by someone else from the time they were all quite young.

Although an emergency travel document is being issued by the Canadian visa office in Accra, the sisters said the hospital has refused to discharge their mother, who suffers from schizophrenia, until they pay the $1,850 bill. They're also trying to scrape together money for airfare so at least one of the sisters can fly to Ghana to accompany their mother home.

"We had been disconnected from our mom.... She was sick and was not able to see her kids, but we know she cares about us," said Stephanie Boachie-Yiadom, 24, who recently graduated from the University of Toronto and is trying to get a high-school teaching job.

Stacey said she, Stephanie and their eldest sister, Christel, 26, can barely make ends meet, while the youngest, Drucilla, 20, is a student at Seneca College.

"We are between a rock and a hard place," said Stephanie. "It's a battle for us already."

Barbara Boachie-Yiadom was admitted to the Pantang Psychiatric Hospital on May 14 after she was spotted wandering naked through the streets of the Ghanaian capital. She drew a crowd who taunted her for being half-man, half-woman — she still bore scars from a recent operation for a prolapsed uterus — and took cellphone photos that were posted on social media.

The sisters said they were told by both the Department of Foreign Affairs and Ontario's health ministry that they can't offer financial assistance.

The sisters have launched a crowdfunding campaign to help pay the hospital bill and the costs of airfare, estimating they'll need at least $4,000.

Stacey Boachie-Yiadom said her parents — mom, a personal support worker, and dad Agyemang, a welder — came to Canada in the 1980s. Her mother was diagnosed with schizophrenia and severe depression about the time of the couple's separation, in 1992, she said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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PHILANTHROPY

App to help feed Syrian children

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

There's now an app for helping Syrian refugees.

The World Food Program launched ShareTheMeal, a mobile app that aims to help smartphone users around the world contribute to efforts of feeding Syrian schoolchildren in Jordan.

"WFP is currently struggling to get enough help for Syrians," said Julie Marshall, the Canadian spokeswoman for the organization.

"This innovative idea will make it a lot easier for people to donate, and will help us reach a different demographic of donors."

The organization is helping about four million people access food inside Syria each month, as well as over a million refugees in neighbouring countries, she said.

The potential for using the app to donate is huge. In a ShareTheMeal test conducted recently in Germany, Australia and Switzerland, more than 120,000 mobile users provided nearly two million meals for schoolchildren in Lesotho, a southern African country.

WFP provides food assistance to nearly 20,000 school-aged Syrian children inside Jordan. As the crisis continues and funding becomes critical, the organization hopes ShareTheMeal becomes a new way for sourcing funds, said Marshall.

"The app will remind people how lucky they are, and hopefully make them help other people around the world," she said.

The app will be available for free on iOS and Android starting Thursday morning.

IMMIGRATION

Liberals to meet to contemplate refugee plan

The Liberal cabinet will meet Thursday to consider a plan to bring in 25,000 Syrian refugees by the end of the year. Details about how the new government intends to make good on its campaign pledge have been closely guarded since a special cabinet committee agreed on a strategy earlier this week. Immigration Minister John McCallum has said repeatedly that all options were on the table — including military transport, temporary housing on military bases, commercial air travel, and transport by boat. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A sign warns to avoid contact with St. Lawrence River water in Montreal on Wednesday. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

MONTREAL

Sewage disposal in river going to plan

There have been no hiccups so far as the City of Montreal started the controversial process of dumping eight billion litres of raw sewage into the St. Lawrence River, Mayor Denis Coderre said Wednesday.

Coderre said everything was proceeding as planned and the infrastructure repair work that necessitated the discharge would begin soon.

At 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, certain sewers began diverting untreated sewage away from an aging interceptor and directly into the river, which will continue for about a week.

The release of untreated waste water is necessary in order to complete repairs on an aging interceptor tunnel that feeds sewage to a treatment facility as well as to relocate a snow chute.

"We are protecting our river and it's better to have (the discharge) planned than just to react to a (break or rupture) where we might have even more waste water," Coderre said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A Justin Trudeau-like vow for an equal number of men and women in U.S. cabinet? No thanks, says Donald Trump.
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: ANDRES PLANA/METRO

Parity, schmarity: Trump pans pledge

POLITICS

Merit over gender balance, says billionaire

Critics of Justin Trudeau's guarantee of a gender-equal cabinet have found a famous ally south of the border: Donald Trump.

The billionaire politician was asked Wednesday in an interview about imitating the new Canadian prime minister's half-male, half-female cabinet — and he said no.

MSNBC interviewer Mika Brzezinski brought up Trudeau's stated rationale for the move — "because it's 2015" — and she asked the Republican nomination contender whether he'd follow suit.

Trump replied he has many, many women working for his companies. Perhaps even more than 50 per cent, he said. But he said he'd make cabinet appointments based exclusively on merit, not quotas.

"I'm not one that has to make a pledge," Trump said. "I wouldn't want that. Because I will tell you: I want the best person at each position ... I'm going to get the best people for the job."

> **I'm going to get the best people for the job.**
> U.S. presidential hopeful Donald Trump

He mentioned, for example, billionaire investor Carl Icahn who has endorsed Trump and is apparently already lined up for a cabinet spot should the real-estate-selling reality-TV star win the White House.

Trump has taken a few positions on other issues relevant to Canada in recent months, as he has mostly led the Republican nomination polls.

He has dismissed the idea of a border wall with Canada, despite enthusiastically proposing one with Mexico. He opposes the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact because he says it's a bad deal for the United States.

And he supports the Keystone XL pipeline. Trump has mused about possibly requesting better terms from TransCanada Corp., but he is in favour of building the stalled pipeline. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MEXICO

Nova Scotia couple found dead in hotel

A Canadian couple who had travelled to Mexico to attend their daughter's wedding has been found dead at a hotel near the resort city of Playa de Carmen.

A family member said Charles Mackenzie and his wife, Dorothy Mackenzie, both from Baddeck, N.S., were found dead on Monday.

Charles Mackenzie's brother-in-law Douglas Hastings said family members currently in Mexico for the wedding were dealing with their deaths.

"I know that they're more concerned about the remains and cremation and things like that. I don't really know about the wedding," said Hastings, whose wife was also in Mexico.

An official from the prosecutor's office in the Mexican state of Quintana Roo said the couple's bodies were found in a whirlpool spa and showed no signs of violence.

The official, who wouldn't give her name as she wasn't authorized to speak publicly about the case, said autopsies have indicated that Charles Mackenzie died of a heart attack and his wife died of asphyxia by submersion.

She said the deaths appeared to be accidental and linked, suggesting the man's heart attack may have somehow caused the woman to drown.

A spokesman for the Playacar Palace hotel, where the couple was staying, said the deaths are still under investigation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

HELP IN MEXICO

Department confirms couple's death

A spokesman with the Department of Foreign Affairs, Francois Lasalle, confirmed the deaths of two Canadians in Mexico and said consular officials in Playa del Carmen were helping the couple's family and friends.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

No evidence hospital housed Taliban before attack: Report

MIDDLE EAST

U.S. military relied heavily on its Afghan allies for strike

Immediately after the U.S. killed at least 30 people in a devastating airstrike on a charity hospital, Afghanistan's national security adviser told a European diplomat his country would take responsibility because "we are without doubt, 100 per cent convinced the place was occupied by Taliban," according to notes of the meeting.

More than a month later, no evidence has emerged to support that Afghan position. Eyewitnesses said they saw no gunman at the hospital.

Instead, there are mounting indications the U.S. military relied heavily on its Afghan allies who resented the internationally run hospital, which treated Afghan security forces and Taliban alike but says it refused to admit armed men.

The new evidence includes details about the location of American troops during the attack. The U.S. special forces unit whose commander called in the strike was under fire in the Kunduz provincial governor's compound a half-mile away from the hospital, according to a former intelligence official who has reviewed documents describing the incident. The commander could not see the medical facility — so couldn't know firsthand whether the Taliban were using it as a base — and sought the attack on the recommendation of Afghan forces, the official said.

> **When we make a mistake, we will not only own up to it, we will also scrutinize all of the facts to learn from them so that it never happens again.**
>
> Pentagon spokesman Navy Capt. Jeff Davis

Looking ahead, the strike raises questions about whether the U.S. military should rely on intelligence from Afghan allies in a war in which small contingent of Americans will increasingly fight with larger units of local forces.

Also at issue is how American commanders, with sophisticated information technology at their disposal, could have allowed the strike to go forward despite reports in their databases that the hospital was functioning.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Serbian PM makes pledge for rejuvenation project

Serbia's prime minister said Wednesday his country is donating five million euros to rejuvenate the Bosnian town of Srebrenica, where Serbs slaughtered 8,000 Muslim men and boys during the war 20 years ago.

Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic attended a regional investment conference in the eastern town and said that the first two million euros will arrive by Monday.

The move is yet another attempt to atone for war atrocities that have kept the region unstable.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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REMEMBRANCE DAY

A world united

Ever since the end of the First World War, November 11 is observed around the world as an occasion to honour and remember veterans of war.

1 Armistice Day Alrewas, England: A woman touches a memorial plaque at the National Memorial Arboretum.

2 Veterans Day parade — Miami Beach, Florida: Kelvin Cabrera salutes as the parade marches past.

3 Field of Remembrance — London England: Crosses and poppies are hidden by fallen leaves outside Westminster Abbey.

4 Vietnam Veterans Memorial Washington, DC: A veteran searches for the name of a fallen peer.

REFUGEE CRISIS

EU pushes for migrant returns as Slovenia tightens security

The European Union pressed African leaders on Wednesday to take back thousands of people who do not qualify for asylum, as overwhelmed Slovenia began building a razor-wire border fence to keep migrants at bay, raising tensions with neighbouring Croatia.

Sweden, also struggling to manage the influx, became the latest EU nation to announce the introduction of temporary border controls, as of Thursday.

The Europeans say most Africans are coming in search of work and should be sent home, but many deliberately arrive without documents and must wait months before they are taken back.

At an EU-run summit in Malta, African leaders are set to commit "to co-operate with the EU on return and admission, notably on travel documentation," according to the latest draft of an "Action Plan" being drawn up.

The president of Niger — a major transit route for Africans heading to lawless Libya in the hopes of crossing the Mediterranean to Europe — was cautious about opening the floodgates for people to return.

800,000

The number of people who have entered Europe by sea this year.

3 million

The EU predicts that three million more could arrive by 2017.

"We are open to talking about it. Everything will depend on the conditions that will be put in place for when they arrive," President Mahamadou Issoufou told reporters in the Maltese capital Valletta, adding that the best method of solving Europe's migration crisis is to attack the root causes forcing people to leave in the first place.

"We can put security measures in place, but the flow will remain difficult to stop as long as we don't take measures to reduce poverty," he said.

The EU is working closely with Niger to stem the flow of migrants toward Libya, and ultimately to Europe. It is also trying to seal deals with Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt.

One was signed with Ethiopia as the two-day summit began.

The move gives Ethiopia — a major hub for people trying to reach Europe — access to money from a 1.8 billion euro trust fund.

But the head of the African Union, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, expressed concern that moving on returns too quickly might result in the building of reception centres where people are held until they can be granted asylum or be sent home.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands march, demanding justice

MIDDLE EAST

Afghanistan erupts after women, child murdered

Anger and frustration over the brutal killings of seven members of Afghanistan's minority Hazaras spilled into the streets of Kabul on Wednesday, with about 10,000 people marching to demand justice for the Shiite minority and calling on the government to do more to ensure the nation's security or step down.

The case of seven Hazaras, whose beheaded bodies were found Saturday in the country's southeastern province of Zabul, appears to have galvanized many in war-battered Afghanistan, uniting them across ethnic and sectarian divides.

No one claimed responsibility for the killings, though Afghan officials have blamed a range of extremists, from Taliban insurgents to an emerging affiliate in Afghanistan of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) group, which is fighting in Syria and Iraq.

The protest climaxed outside President Ashraf Ghani's heavily fortified presidential palace at Pashtunistan Square, where marchers brought the coffins, draped in green flags symbolizing the Shiite minority.

At one point, presidential guards opened fire as some of the protesters tried to scale the walls and get into the palace grounds. The president's deputy spokesman, Zafar Hashemi, said the shooting wounded 10 people.

Shortly afterward, Ghani went live on national television, appealing for calm and promising that the Hazara deaths would be avenged. "The nation's pain is my pain," he said, vowing the authorities would have "no mercy" on the killers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands of protesters marched coffins containing the bodies of seven Shiite Hazaras through the Afghan capital Kabul to demand justice for the beheadings. SHAH MARAI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES.

INDONESIA

Elephants trained to fight forest fires

Forest fires difficult to control? Call in the pachyderm patrol.

Officials in Indonesia are using trained elephants outfitted with water pumps and hoses to help control fires that have claimed vast amounts of forest while sending thick haze into neighbouring countries.

For nearly three months, Riau province in East Sumatra has been blanketed by smoke from forest fires and land clearing, especially in peat-rich areas where flames are difficult to contain.

At the elephant conservation centre in Siak district, 23 trained elephants are being used as "forest watchdogs." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Forestry officials load a water pump on the back of an elephant prior to the start of a patrol. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

IN BRIEF

Seven real estate workers dead after jet hits house

Seven associates of a Florida real estate investment company were on the second day of a multi-city Midwestern trip to look at property when their small jet crashed into an Ohio apartment house, killing all nine people onboard. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EU labelling upsets Israel

The European Union's decision Wednesday to start labeling Israeli products made in the West Bank raised the pressure on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to renew peace efforts with the Palestinians.

Israel condemned the measure as unfair and discriminatory. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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U.S. President Barack Obama, accompanied by Vice-President Joe Biden and Secretary of State John Kerry, announces Friday he's rejecting the Keystone XL pipeline. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TransCanada has few options

KEYSTONE XL

New permit a non-starter as long as Obama is president

Immediately after U.S. President Barack Obama denied a permit for the Keystone XL pipeline, TransCanada Corp. vowed to review all of its options.

Unfortunately for the Calgary-based company, none of those options are quick, simple or sure to succeed, according to a Washington, D.C., lawyer who at one time dealt with energy issues at the U.S. Department of Justice.

"There's not much anyone can do to reverse the decision practically or legally in the short-term," said Jim Rubin, now a partner at Dorsey & Whitney.

The one possibility TransCanada raised in its statement Friday was filing for a new permit to ship oilsands crude across the border. That's a non-starter as long as Obama is in the White House, said Rubin. Same story if the Democrats win the 2016 election, given the front-runners for the nomination have come out against the project.

The best hope, said Rubin, is for TransCanada to bide its time and see if the Republicans take power in 2017.

Going through the courts is the most complicated route, said Rubin, adding that the optics of TransCanada itself launching a lawsuit aren't great. Other parties could argue they've suffered economic harm as a result of the project not going ahead, but that's tough to prove.

A challenge under the North American Free Trade Agreement would be a protracted process, and a win would be far from a sure bet. The best-case scenario for TransCanada would be recouping funds it sunk into the project, said Rubin.

TransCanada may look at building pipe along the same route of its existing Keystone network, which has been delivering crude to the Midwest since 2010, Oklahoma since 2011 and the Gulf Coast since early 2014.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MEXICO DEAL

Natural-gas pipeline

TransCanada Corp. has won a contract to build, own and operate a $500-million US natural-gas pipeline for Mexico's state-owned power company. The company says the pipeline should be completed by late 2017 and it has a 25-year contract with the Comision Federal de Electricidad to operate the line.

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IN BRIEF

Canada's share of Molson Coors revenue to drop

Molson Coors will nearly double its size once it completes a $12-billion US purchase that secures full ownership of its U.S. beer business and gains worldwide control of the Miller brand. Canada's share of total Molson Coors revenue will drop to 15 per cent, from 24 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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More young women living with parents

STUDY

Marrying later, student debt, living costs all play a role

The percentage of young women living at home with parents or relatives has risen to its highest level since 1940 as more millennial women put off marriage, attend college and face high living expenses.

A Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data found that 36.4 per cent of women between the ages 18 and 34 lived with parents or relatives in 2014, the most since at least 1940, when 36.2 per cent lived with family.

It is a very different world for women now, though, despite the "return to the past, statistically speaking," says Richard Fry, a senior economist at Pew.

New research has found that 36.4 per cent of women between the ages 18 and 34 lived with parents or relatives in 2014, **the most since at least 1940.** ISTOCK

Fry says young women are staying home now because they are half as likely to be married as they were 1940 and much more likely to be college-educated. Other economic forces, such as increasing student debt, higher living costs and economic uncertainty, are also playing a role.

Casey Ballard was living away from home in Portland, Ore., but rent ate up roughly two-thirds of her paycheque and she was ready for a career change. A September move back with family in California allowed her to try out teaching as a substitute and to pursue teaching full-time.

"There was that element of frustration and feeling like a failure," she says about returning home. "But then the logical side of me kicked in and said 'It's just fiscally responsible.'"

Young men have historically lived with parents at higher rates than young women, and similar economic and cultural forces are keeping an increasing number of men at home too in recent years. But the rate young men are staying home with their parents and relatives, 42.8 per cent, remains below the 47.5 per cent level for men in 1940.

The percentage of young men and women living with family fell after the 1940s as more women joined the workforce, the overall workforce expanded and marriage rates increased.

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, November 12, 2015

CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON THE TORIES' FADE

It's not just that the Conservatives lost control of the federal agenda for the foreseeable future but also that they are all but a spent force on the provincial scene.

The Conservatives' defeat on Oct. 19 will not go down in history as the worst electoral beating the party has ever endured, but it has driven Canada's conservative movement further into the political wilderness than at any other time in its recent history.

It is not just that the Conservatives lost control of the federal agenda for the foreseeable future, but also that they are all but a spent force on the provincial scene. That's obviously bad news for the parties that make up the right, but it is also a loss for the national conversation.

By the time Canada's premiers join Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the Paris climate conference next month, Saskatchewan's Brad Wall will likely be the only conservative first minister still standing.

Once the voters of Newfoundland and Labrador go to the polls at the end of the month, polls suggest the province's Tory government will be history.

For the first time in the living memory of most voters, there is not a Conservative government at the helm of one of the four larger provinces and no prospect that one will be elected anytime soon.

The Liberal governments of Ontario and Quebec, and the New Democrats in Alberta are all in the first half of majority mandates. Regime change — should it come to British Columbia in 2017 — is more likely to bring another NDP government to the fore than a more conservative one.

In the short term, Manitoba offers the Tories their best (and only?) hope of bolstering their presence at the federal-provincial table.

But it will take more than a provincial victory or two to fix the malaise that ails the Conservative movement.

Harper's brand of conservatism was massively rejected in Atlantic Canada last month and it never took root in Quebec. In that province the party's recent seat gains mask a drop to the lowest Conservative score in the popular vote (16 per cent) in Quebec in a decade.

In a set of byelections earlier this week, the Coalition Avenir Québec — the closest thing to a provincial conservative party in Quebec — did even more poorly.

Ontario and Alberta are homes to conflicted and divided Conservative houses.

Since Mike Harris retired more than a decade ago, the Ontario Tories have failed to find a path back to power or, for that matter, to agree on a course to get there.

In Alberta, the warring factions within the Conservative movement have taken their differences to the electoral arena in a fratricidal battle that neither side is poised to win.

It will be interesting to see how the internal tensions in the two provinces that have been the pillars of the federal Conservative party will play out in the upcoming campaign to select Harper's successor.

If the past is any indication, those vying to succeed Harper will more likely be auditioning for a spell in the role of leader of the opposition than for the job of prime minister.

After the Trudeau, Mulroney and Chrétien/Martin decades, it took almost 10 years for their respective parties to regroup and stage a successful bid for government.

In fact, the Conservatives should not assume they hit rock bottom on Oct. 19.

The Liberals — who went from bad to worse under Stéphane Dion and Michael Ignatieff — can testify to the perils of that particular delusion.

Meanwhile though, a Conservative vacuum of this magnitude on the federal-provincial scene is unprecedented.

Pierre Trudeau sat across from William Davis in Ontario and Peter Lougheed in Alberta. Jean Chrétien was paired with Ralph Klein and Harris. Those strong premiers, hailing as they did from provinces that no federal ruling party could ignore, provided a counterweight to the Liberal government of the day, and often forced it to up its game.

Over the Chrétien decade, a lot of the intellectual impetus for groundbreaking federal policies came from the right. It was provincial Conservative politicians who broke the trail to balanced budgets and the Reform Party planted the seed of what became the Liberal's Clarity Act.

But the Harper Conservatives always seemed to bring less policy heft to the exercise of power than their party in opposition.

They had lost their identity some time before they lost their place in government.

For the first time in the living memory of most voters, there is not a Conservative at the helm of one of the four larger provinces.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

THE MICROTREND: Retail on the road

Have you ever tried to exit a bus only to run into the person in front of you, gazing at something on their phone? Blame online retailers. According to research by Ipsos and the admittedly self-interested PayPal Canada, 14 per cent of Canadian commuters use transit time to shop on their phones, and 76 per cent would if they had better Internet access. PayPal says the number of commuter-shoppers could increase fivefold if Wi-Fi was available on-board. So until hands-free, eyes-free mobile payments are invented, ever more multi-taskers will slow the flow of people on public transport because they're comparison-shopping for cat toys.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

This week's episode of Latent and Not-So-Latent Sexism

Welcome to Recently in Latent and Not-So-Latent Sexism.

1. Jose Bautista, whose bat flip got us all hot and bothered, pens a nice defence of said bat flip that doubles as a celebration for cross-cultural baseball. But slipped into a description of how it felt to step up to the plate, he offers this charmer: "It's the closest I have ever felt to being a superhero. I felt like I was Batman, and the villain had the girl dangling off the edge of the building." Did you do it, Bautista? Did you save the girl?!

2. In his widely memed music video for Hotline Bling, Drake confuses his ex's sexy party time and international vacations for the behaviour of a "bad girl." The female artist Ceresia covers the song from a woman's perspective to help him really hear himself. That cover spawns my own counsel to Drake: She probably is getting nasty with someone else, so you might want to consider going out more, you know? Instead of waiting for that late-night hotline bling? Best of luck in your new city.

3. Ralph Nader, allegedly very upset about interest rates, publishes an open letter to the U.S. Federal Reserve's first-ever chairwoman, Janet Yellen, and advises her that she should "Sit down with your Nobel Prize winning husband, economist George Akerlof," so they can "together, figure out what to do." (Note: for more on the curious practice of condescending to female economists and making sure to point out that they're wives, see a recent article devoted to the topic in the New York Times' The Upshot blog.)

4. Bloomingdale's, sensing that rape culture is so hot right now, releases a print ad featuring a man gazing at a woman (who's having a big laugh with someone in the opposite direction) with the handy how-to direction: "Spike your best friend's eggnog when they're not looking." The company apologizes, citing recent feedback, furthering the cause of shallow moral relativism. Bloomingdale's does not explain why the words "best friend" are bolded in the ad, though one might assume it's a nod to the fact that 80 per cent of sexual assaults are committed by someone known to the victim.

5. Alberta judge Robin Camp faces possible dismissal after showing a disregard for Canadian law by replacing the Supreme Court of Canada's definition of consent to sexual touching with "Why couldn't you just keep your knees together?"

Thanks for reading. That concludes this edition of Recently in Latent and Not-So-Latent Sexism. Till next time.

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Late-night host Stephen Colbert to make a special post-Super Bowl episode

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POLITICS OF THE WARDROBE

Sophie's easy-going elegance captivates fashion lovers

Marlene Rego
For Metro Canada

Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau has all the hallmarks of a style-icon-in-the-making with many ready to brand her Canada's Kate Middleton. They both married into a dynasty and share a glossy mane, but that's where the comparisons end. It's almost impossible to picture The Duchess, for instance, walking her kids to school in a pair of distressed denim flares and a white tee as Grégoire-Trudeau did on the first day back. It's precisely her relatable, relaxed approach that has put the entire country on Sophie Style Watch.

For her first official appearance as the prime minister's wife, she made a conscious choice to wear Canadian designers in an embellished Erdem dress and Sentaler coat — she also wore a grey Sentaler coat to yesterday's Remembrance Day ceremony — ostensibly aware that doing otherwise could come across as an early misstep. Instead, her swearing-in ensemble (styled by good friend Jessica Mulroney) prompted dozens of wardrobe dissections.

Sarah Bancroft, Vancouver-based editor-in-chief of vitamindaily.com credits her popularity with an easygoing elegance. "While many first ladies have nailed the elegant part, the relaxed part doesn't come across as frequently."

It seems the personal is public for Grégoire-Trudeau, at least in her proven talent for toeing the line with her style choices. "It's a fine balance. I'm sure it's not easy finding the perfect pieces," says Bancroft, who points to Grégoire-Trudeau's early TV work and time with Holt Renfrew as a personal shopper for her honed style.

Grégoire-Trudeau's choices so far lean toward a Made-in-Canada mandate, though it's too premature to predict whether she could have the same effect as Kate Middleton on much-needed sales.

"If we make noise about specific things she wears, I think it will definitely have an impact. I've seen so many posts on Facebook with people asking 'Where did she get that coat?'" says Montreal-based blogger Lolitta Dandoy of Fashion Is Everywhere (fashioniseverywhere.com).

This is exactly what the Canadian fashion industry needs at the moment, says Dandoy, who cites the loss of Montreal Fashion Week two years ago as a discouraging low-point for local designers.

Bancroft agrees, especially now that all eyes are on the most photogenic pair in Ottawa. "Canadian designers need all the spokespeople they can get."

The coming-out look

For Justin Trudeau's swearing-in, she cleverly chose to #WearCanada in an alpaca wrap coat by Toronto-based Sentaler and dress by CAFA award-winner Erdem. Bancroft thinks she made the right call to go understated but definitive with her style. "She's gone for more neutral colours, which is an interesting choice because a lot of first ladies will try to go for something really bold and statement-making."

Election day

Dandoy references this monochromatic look as the epitome of Grégoire-Trudeau's "cozy-chic" style. It's a classic choice that proves she can pull off effortless with three tots in tow.

On-duty mom

"It takes a lot of confidence to pull something like this off when you know you're going to be photographed. It suits her; it's also a throwback to Margaret (Trudeau), pictured in the black-and-white photo, and the '70s silhouette happens to be in again," notes Bancroft.

ALL PHOTOS: THE CANADIAN PRESS; INSTAGRAM

3 LOOKS THAT WOULD BE AMAZING ON SOPHIE

Canadian designers so far haven't had a lot of help from the government, says fashion editor Sarah Bancroft. "To have someone in the public eye such as Sophie wearing Canadian designers — it will have a huge impact here in Canada and internationally." Here are local designs we think she should wear next MARLENE REGO/FOR METRO

Tanya Taylor

The Toronto-born, New York based designer is on heavy rotation with U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama, Beyoncé and Taylor Swift. We're predicting Grégoire-Trudeau would love any of the classic '70s boho silhouettes seen in the Fall 2015 collection.

Quebec designers

Grégoire-Trudeau's ties to the fashion industry allowed her to design her custom wedding gown back in 2005. Montreal blogger Lolitta Dandoy hopes she'll continue to support local designers by wearing pieces from the collections of Dénis Gagnon (pictured), Mélissa Nepton, Mackage or Montreal duo Tavan & Mitto.

Partyskirts

While we wouldn't be surprised to find her in a formal Greta Constantine gown, Smythe or Pink Tartan, Bancroft would like to see Grégoire-Trudeau shine the spotlight on smaller Canadian brands such as Partyskirts. "The silk high-waisted skirts come in all kinds of jewel tones. For the holidays I think this would be really fun on her, it's festive but also quite conservative at the same time."

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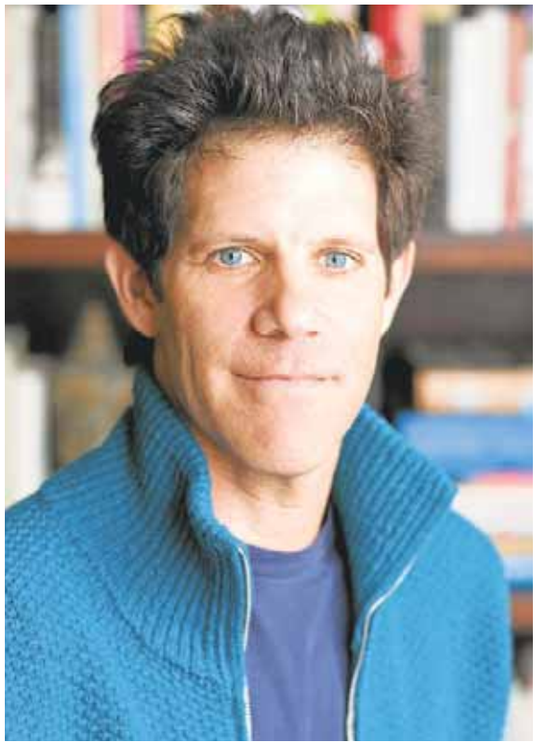
Stars share their best advice in six words



Six-word story catalyst Larry Smith has a new book. CONTRIBUTED

COLLECTED WISDOM

Larry Smith on the power of half a dozen words

Rachel Vigoda
Metro | New York

In the age of Twitter, the idea of sharing wisdom using just a few letters is *de rigueur*. But that wasn't the way of the world when Larry Smith launched the Six-Word Memoir project in 2006, challenging people to tell a story in just six words.

More than a million mini-stories have been shared at SixWordMemoirs.com, sparking a series of books.

Last week, Smith released the latest book, The Best Advice in Six Words. In it are witty nuggets from actors, singers and writers, including Smith's wife, Piper Kerman, the real-life Piper of Orange Is the New Black. (She wrote the memoir that became the Netflix hit.)

We spoke with Smith about his favourite piece of advice and watching himself on OITNB.

How did you pick who would contribute to your book?
We contact(ed) some of our favorite people from worlds we all love: the arts, comedy, food, science, writing, wellness and more. Sometimes I get lucky and catch someone like Taylor Schilling ("You're okay, right now, I promise"), Weird Al Yankovic ("Eat your broccoli and always floss"), or Philly's own opera star Michael Fabiano ("Don't wait your turn in life") who already loves the form and offers me their six words on the spot. The trickiest celebrities to land are often some of my favourite writers — I get the sense that because they are so well known for their words, they never quite feel their six-word stories are finished.

Was there anyone you really wanted who said no?
I was listening to the radio one day and heard Tony Robbins giving a TED talk that included these perfect six words: "Divorce your story, marry the truth." I tried numerous emails and calls to (his) office to seek permission to include those words, but never heard back.

What's your favourite piece of advice in it?
My son's "Play, play, play, play, play" is sage wisdom for all ages. Morgan Spurlock, the director of Super Size Me, emailed me six words that I seem to be repeating a lot lately: "Don't put that in your mouth."

How did you feel about the way Larry was portrayed on OITNB?
Piper and I both think the adaptation of Orange Is the New Black is excellent. I have some similarities to Larry Bloom. We're funny, have good hair, love Piper. But of course the show is a work of fiction.

Did Piper contribute her six words of advice?
Piper's a frequent and fantastic six-word scribe. In our first book she shared her Six-Word Memoir, "In and out of hot water." In a collection of stories about love she wrote, "Found fellow cliff-diver. Best risk ever." In The Best Advice in Six Words, my wife offers, "You learn more from your failures."

FAVOURITES

Check out our six pack
In The Best Advice In Six Words, celebs from Gary Shteyngart to Molly Ringwald share the best advice someone ever gave them. Here are some of our favourites.

"Just make something every single day." — Noah Scalin

"Good posture trumps insecurity every time." — Susanne Kuznetsky

"There's always time to reinvent yourself." — Kathryn Budig

"Speak kindly. Someone always hears you." — Eleanor Sanchez

"Endure. Tomorrow is a different day." — Karen Munro

"Overnight success has never happened overnight." — Charles London

Wildflower is a portrait of Drew's life in stories

© David Khinda

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Drew Barrymore
shares funny, insightful, and heartfelt stories from her past and present told from the wonderful place of happiness she's achieved today.

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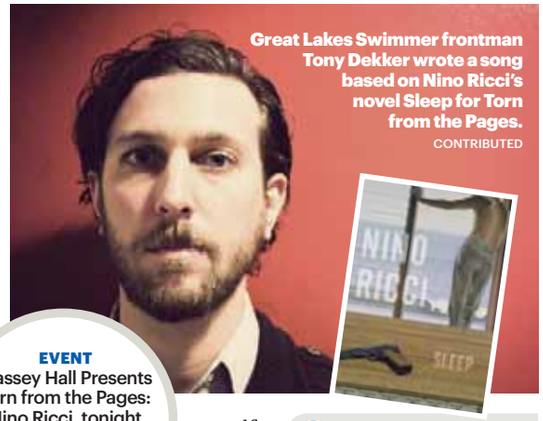
Exploring the creative process

TORN FROM THE PAGES

The challenge of writing songs inspired by novels

Ian Gormely
For Metro Canada



Great Lakes Swimmer frontman Tony Dekker wrote a song based on Nino Ricci's novel Sleep for Torn from the Pages. CONTRIBUTED

EVENT
Massey Hall Presents Torn from the Pages: Nino Ricci, tonight at 8 p.m. Go to Harbourfrontcentre.com for details.

Songwriting, says Tony Dekker, is a process of distilling information and putting it into the writer's own words. Yet, in using Nino Ricci's novel Sleep as the basis for a new song, written for the latest edition of Torn from the Pages, the Great Lake Swimmers frontman found the process "pretty strange."

"It's a matter of feeling impressions from a bigger work and boiling it down," he says. "It was kind of academic."

The brainchild of writer and musician Dave Bidini, Torn from the Pages asks artists to create new works using a specific book for inspiration. "It's a funny thing to force yourself to be inspired," admits Bidini. "But in the life of the artist, you have to find the switch to the light as opposed to it just turning on."

But the participating artists aren't the only ones who find the process challenging. "It's a tribute…but it's also a bit scary to see where they go with it," says Ricci, whose first novel, Lives of the Saints, won the Governor General's Award for Fiction. "What you thought was self-contained and your own takes on this other dimension."

Bidini picked Sleep because of its tension, darkness and suspense. "There's a lot to dig into and pull out."

The book chronicles the psychological breakdown of a Roman history scholar who suffers from sleep disorder.

"I was trying to explore certain ideas of consciousness and human nature and go into certain dark spaces within the psyche that we don't normally think about that much," says Ricci.

Ultimately it was this "dream world" that Dekker latched onto for his composition, likening the main character's blurred visions to the creative process itself. "It's a very powerful work."

CREATIVE SPARK

Influences and originality

Inspiration is a two-way street; just as Bidini is influenced by the media he consumes, so too does the media he creates influence other artists. "That's one of the great bonus coupons that falls through the mail slot of life," he says. "None of what we do is so precious that art is completely original."

Ricci agrees. "I wouldn't be a writer if I didn't have influences," he says. "Every artist hopes that they're doing something that's out there enough and has enough edge to it, and originality that it will influence the way other artists see the world and make their art."

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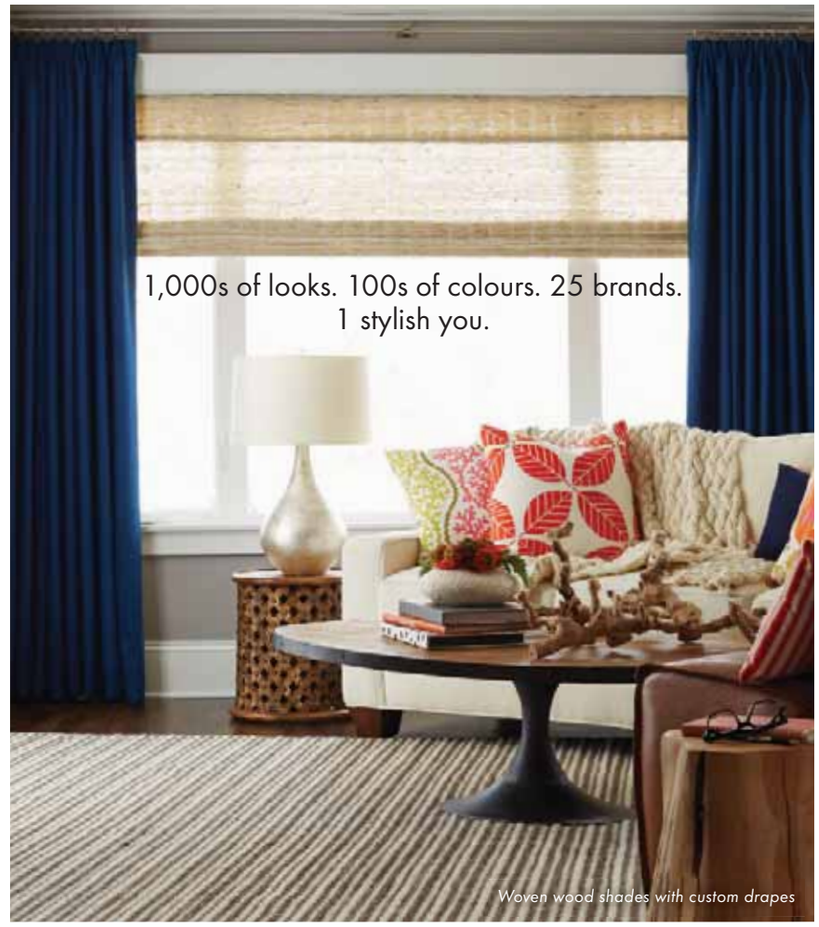

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Graphic novel gets Suite translation

SUITE FRANÇAISE

Popular 1940s story now illustrated in English

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

The English-language version of the graphic novel Suite Française.
CONTRIBUTED

There are so many versions of Irene Némirovsky's critically beloved novel Suite Française, returning to the original story is a bit like pulling apart a Russian matryoshka doll.

Némirovsky's own life is one of contemporary publishing's most heartbreaking and triumphant tales. The Ukrainian-born author intended to write a series of books based on her personal observations of the German occupation of France during the Second World War, but only completed two novellas before she died at Auschwitz in 1942. The manuscripts then remained untouched in a suitcase under her daughter's care until 1998. When the two books were finally published together in 2004 as a single novel titled Suite Française, it quickly became an international bestseller and then, earlier this year, a film, starring Michelle Williams as a lonely French woman who falls in love with a German soldier.

What many English speakers don't know is that there is also an illustrated adaptation of Némirovsky's first novella by Emmanuel Moynot, a Parisian author-artist with more than 40 titles to his name.

Now, for the first time, the English-language translation of that graphic novel is available here, thanks to Arsenal Pulp Press. The Vancouver publisher is gaining international respect for its comics translations, having made a name with another cultural phenomenon, Julie Maroh's lesbian romance, Blue is the Warmest Color, the film adaptation of which took home the Palme d'Or prize at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival.

Montreal translator David Homel, who also worked on Maroh's followup, Skandalon, was brought on by Arsenal Pulp to work on the book. He read Némirovsky's novel in French soon after it came out, but deliberately avoided the English-language edition while working on the illustrated version. "You can really be influenced by something without realizing it," he says.

The graphic novel is a moody work of grey washes and black-ink illustrations, showcasing Moynot's brilliance at capturing facial expressions with quick pen strokes. The story follows several families of various social classes as they try to rebuild their lives under occupation. "Most of the books and movies that we consume about World War II are tragic Holocaust stories or heroic stories of resistance against the Nazis," says Homel. "This is a completely business-as-usual story — the opposite of what we're used to seeing or reading. That's the genius of Némirovsky."

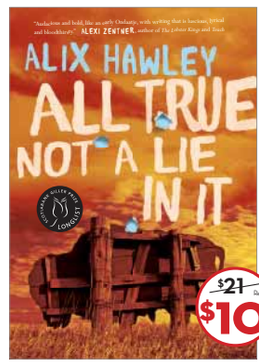
Ultimately, Homel wanted Moynot's graphic novel to stand on its own. Though he praises the work of British translator Sandra Smith, he didn't want to mimic the English edition of the novel that most readers are familiar with. As it turns out, its flowery, descriptive language wouldn't hold up in a graphic novel format, which is constricted by the limited space provided by speech balloons.

As with his other projects, Homel didn't communicate directly with Moynot while working on the book. Some references were changed to accommodate English speakers, but he tried to keep as true as possible to the original French text. "If people are eating duck pâté, they're eating pâté, not duck liver," Homel says. "It's like going on a trip. When you enter you know there are going to be certain types of references that are foreign but you still have a picture of what's going on."

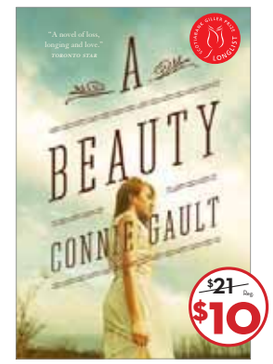
Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

STOCK UP ON THE SEASON'S BEST BOOKS

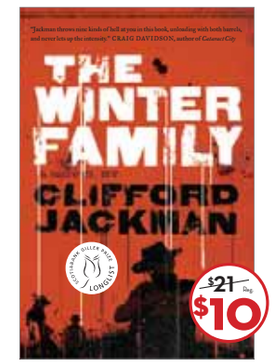
"A remarkable tale."
Philipp Meyer, author of *The Son*



"Atmospheric and beautifully written."
Toronto Star



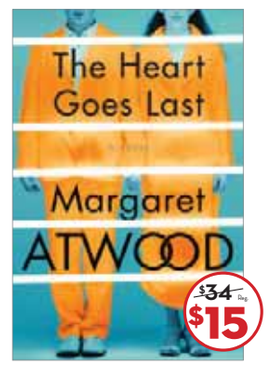
"A novel of loss, longing and love."
Toronto Star



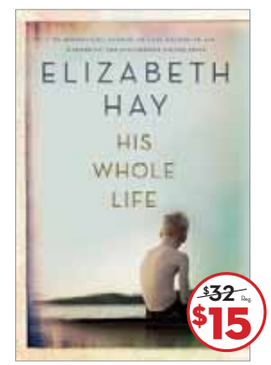
"Sadistic but mesmerizing..."
New York Times Book Review

"A tremendous achievement."
Maclean's

"Undeniably compelling."
The Globe and Mail



"Deeply witty and oddly beautiful."
The Globe and Mail



"A moving reflection on an unbreakable mother-son bond."
The Globe and Mail

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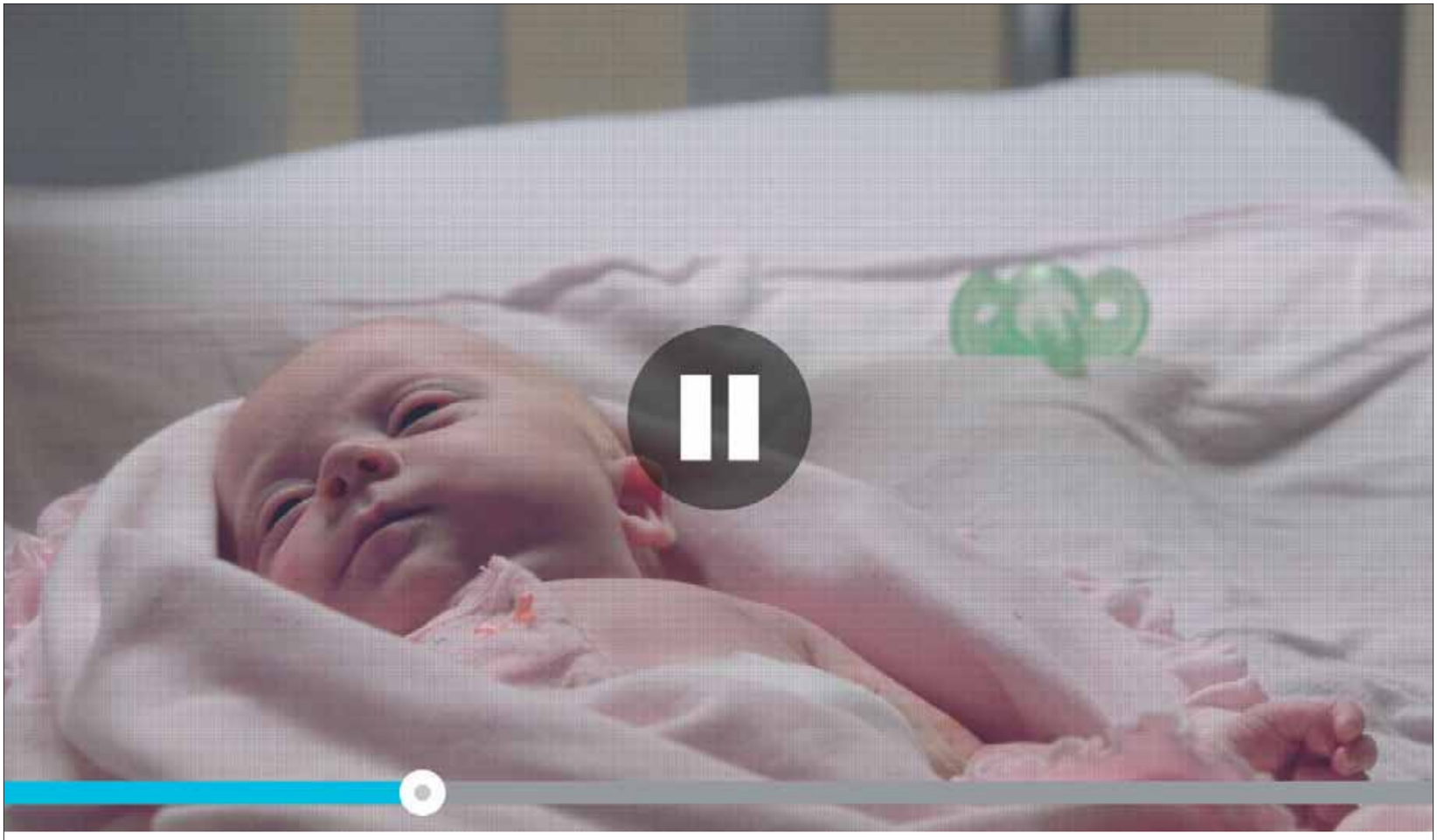

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STEP INTO ANOTHER WORLD

Ellen DeGeneres feels right at Home

RENOVATED PROPERTIES

Talk-show host showcases her design chops in new book

The spaces featured in Home reflect Ellen DeGeneres' perfectly-imperfect philosophy. LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"Interior design is what I would do if I wasn't a comedian and talk-show host.
Ellen DeGeneres

Ellen DeGeneres likes homes. That much is evident if you watch her HGTV series Ellen's Design Challenge, where furniture-makers fight to create the coolest side table you will never use in order to win $100,000.

DeGeneres has bought and renovated close to a dozen abodes over the last 25 years. Seven of them are represented in her coffee-table book, along with a spattering of interiors from her designer collaborators. The talk-show host does have design chops, including an appreciation for modernists such as Jean Royère and Arne Jacobsen. As expected, even though she was born in New Orleans, the majority of the homes are reflective of modern-day L.A. living.

Beverly Hills

DeGeneres and her wife, Portia de Rossi, bought their Beverly Hills estate after visiting the house for the first time and making their hosts an offer they didn't refuse. The main home was built in 1963 for actor Laurence Harvey. DeGeneres then went on to significantly enlarge the estate, buying the two surrounding properties. The main living room has Louis XVI Bergeres flanked by slipcovered sofas to create a cosy, not-too-imposing while still-very-Ellen area. A grey Hermès Avalon blanket — something of a Beverly Hills cliché — sets off the white, grey and brown tones.

The Horse Ranch

DeGeneres' 26-acre horse ranch north of Los Angeles. Built by actor William Powell in the 1920s, it has been both a monastery and a rehab centre over the years. The talk-show host said she approached the task like she was "designing and decorating 10 different homes" since there were so many cabins and barns on the property. This barn is used as a recreation centre, decorated with an early 20th-century American work table and a vintage wicker chair. In the centre is a French 19th-century Os de Mouton settee.

Santa Barbara

If you are going to live in Santa Barbara, it might as well be in a villa — in this case, a Tuscanite-influenced beauty designed by American architect Wallace Frost. The stone home is situated on a hill filled with olive trees and overlooking the Pacific.

"It's like a glorious stone funhouse full of strange nooks and crannies and little moments of surprise," says DeGeneres. "I think this is our forever house." Outside DeGeneres has placed an 18th-century Belgian farm table on which sits a sculpture of a pig. Art is deftly placed everywhere, including vintage Oaxacan candle lanterns and a sculpture by Finnish artist Harry Kivijärvi.

The Brody House

The Brody House is one of the most significant homes in Los Angeles. The Brodys were philanthropists who commissioned architect A. Quincy Jones and designer William Haines to create one of the great modernist structures. They even had Henri Matisse do a mural for the courtyard — which has since been donated to a museum.

The spa seen here is minimalism at its finest: marble slab walls, terrazzo floors and palm woods. DeGeneres didn't live here long. After paying a reported $40 million for the home, she flipped it to Napster founder Sean Parker for $55 million.

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Year of Yes transforms Shonda

MEMOIR

Titan of TV faces her fears and finds life is much sweeter

TV producer Shonda Rhimes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Shonda Rhimes, who owns ABC's Thursday night (with hit dramas Grey's Anatomy, Scandal and How to Get Away With Murder), had found comfort and refuge in ShondaLand, the dream factory she rules as a mega-producer and writer.

But otherwise she was a chronic naysayer, which spurred her sister to mutter as they cooked Thanksgiving dinner in 2013, "You never say yes to anything."

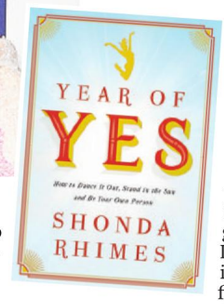
This stinging rebuke led Rhimes to commit herself to a year of saying "yes" to whatever came her way.

For Rhimes, who describes herself back then as an introvert "to the bone," this meant saying yes to speaking engagements and social invitations she would have turned down before.

But that was just the start.

"I feel like a different person," Rhimes, 45, declared over tea Monday morning at a New York hotel. A television titan who not long ago was legendary for shunning interviews and the media spotlight, she was relaxed and reflective as she shared with a reporter how "everybody asks: 'What happened to you?' I don't know what to say, except that I had this weird, transformative experience and I feel like I've completely changed my life from top to bottom."

Rhimes has chronicled this grand transformation — and helped explain it to herself — in her candid new memoir, Year of Yes (Simon & Schuster).



For Rhimes, saying yes didn't just mean saying yes to Jimmy Kimmel when asked to be on his show (which terrified her, though it turned out fine) or making time, no matter how busy she was, for her three daughters when they asked, "Wanna play?"

More than all that, "yes" meant breaking her lifelong habit of avoiding new possibilities and opportunities.

Writing Year of Yes itself became a part of the transformation process, which delivered her from being a remarkably successful woman who was, nonetheless, miserable, to newfound standing as "a better mother, a better friend, a happier boss, a stronger leader, a more creative writer," and someone who is kind, no longer cruel, to herself.

"The more I wrote about what I was doing, the more I got out of it, and I ended up writing the book just for me, which I think was a good thing. If I had been thinking that anybody else was going to read it, I probably would have censored myself so that what came out was sanitized," she laughed, "for my protection."

It isn't. One of the more revealing chapters recounts her relationship with an ideal man who wanted marriage and mistakenly got the idea she did, too.

She ended up shutting the door on that relationship while, free of regret or self-recrimination, flinging open a door to the notion that choosing to stay single was the right choice for her.

Writing that chapter sparked an epiphany for Rhimes. She realized she unwittingly had led him on.

"He had said, 'I thought you were a traditional person,' and suddenly I realized that I had completely created myself for *him* as someone who seemed to want to get married. Up until that moment, I thought, 'How *dare* he say I'm traditional?!' But then I realized, 'That was *my* doing.'"

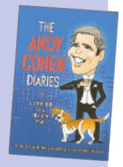
The creation of Year of Yes was as swift as Rhimes' punchy, often stream-of-conscious writing style. It poured out of her this summer and the next thing she knew, she was holding the book's galleys.

"That's when I freaked out. Suddenly this book was real, and I was reminded that everybody in the world is going to read it. So I had my panic. And then I reread it and I felt OK. It's honest and wildly freeing."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOOK BRIEFS

The Andy Cohen Diaries: A Deep Look at a Shallow Year by Andy Cohen



Watch What Happens Live host Andy Cohen takes fans behind the scenes of his Bravo talk show and gives them a front row seat into his personal life with his dishy new memoir. It's Andy Cohen, so you know you're in for a laugh, and he isn't afraid to make fun of himself. There's plenty of drama, and plenty of heart.

Rules For A Knight by Ethan Hawke

Academy Award-nominated actor and director Ethan Hawke's third novel is about a knight who is scared he is going to die in battle, so he writes a letter to his children about what he's learned throughout his life. Philosophy lovers will enjoy the musings, but everyone will enjoy the touching storyline. EMILY LAURENCE/METRO NEW YORK

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INTERVIEW

Judah pens absurdist comic

Matt Kwong
For Metro Canada

Actor, comedian, cartoonist. Judah Friedlander is a man of many hats. Perhaps best known for playing the role of Frank Rossitano, the deadpan, prank-prone comedy writer on NBC's 30 Rock, the New York comedian has now published an anthology of drawings. Friedlander, who will be in Toronto on Nov. 17 and 18 to do standup at the Comedy Bar and to promote his new book of cartoons, If The Raindrops United. He spoke with Metro from New Orleans.

You've been drawing cartoons since you were a kid. There's even a political one involving human-rights leader Lech Walesa you drew as a 10-year-old. How has your work evolved since then?
If you look at the thought, there's a lot more brain behind it. Even though the style is simple, the ideas are not simple. An example of a simple drawing in the book is that one that shows a mouth and teeth all perfectly straight except one is crooked. (The caption reads: "A lone tooth fights bravely against fascism.") If you look at that, you don't know what the f— it is. Once you read what it says below, you then realize what it's about, and then you laugh. And it's also a serious statement about conformity.

But it's not like these are just 10-minute sketches.
Yeah, that doesn't mean I'm not tweaking them over and over again. I might do 15 different versions of one before I come to one I think works best. I actually used to do oil paintings, I did drawings, some stuff that was very realistic. But for what I'm doing now, if I think of a concept for a drawing and a joke, I can get the same point across doing a simple drawing that might take anywhere from 20 minutes to two hours.

Any comics or cartoonists that inform your style?
From the front of the book, Tina Fey references B. Kliban. He was a big influence. A little later, I was a fan of Gary Larson. And then John Callahan, and the old National Lampoons from the '70s and '80s.

I also heard you love ping-pong! Any plans to drop by Spin in Toronto and show off World Champion table tennis skills?
I probably will drop by Spin. I met the owner there once, but I'm friends with the owners in New York, that's the original location. I'm an advocate for the sport in North America.

Judah Friedlander
GETTY IMAGES

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EGLINTON CROSSTOWN

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES & INFORMATION SESSION

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CAPITOL EVENT THEATRE, 2492 YONGE STREET
(NORTH OF EGLINTON AVENUE)

Metrolinx, the regional transportation agency for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), recognizes that its infrastructure investments should provide benefits for the communities in which it works, and is committed to working with local community groups, agencies and stakeholders to realize those benefits.

To support its delivery of this project, Crosslinx Transit Solutions (CTS) is hosting a drop-in session for contractors, small business owners and social enterprises to learn about opportunities with the Eglinton Crosstown.

Come learn about the project, attend a presentation (11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.), and share information with CTS about your company and the services it can provide.

To RSVP, please visit www.crosslinxtransit.ca

For more information about the Crosstown, visit www.thecrosstown.ca

The Eglinton Crosstown Project is building the Eglinton Line, a 19-kilometre light rail transit (LRT) line that will run along Eglinton Avenue through the heart of Toronto, with a 10-kilometre underground tunnel in its central section. When complete, the line will connect Mount Dennis in the west to Kennedy Road in the east, and will move passengers up to 60 per cent faster than bus service today.

The Eglinton Line will provide fast, reliable, integrated, comfortable and convenient transit service. It will have 25 stations and stops, linking to bus routes, three subway stations and various GO Transit lines.

Metrolinx is building the Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit (LRT) project in partnership with Infrastructure Ontario.

METROLINX CROSSLINX TRANSIT SOLUTIONS Ontario Infrastructure Ontario

At left, Blood and Oil's alleged hunk Chace Crawford. On the right, Justified's inarguable hunk Timothy Olyphant. CONTRIBUTED

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Blank-eyed not a good look

BLOOD AND OIL: SEASON 1, EPISODE 1 (ABC/CTV)

I'm sorry, but I do not get the appeal of Chace Crawford, alleged hunk and star of this new nighttime soap set in boomtown North Dakota.

I didn't get him on Gossip Girl, when Blair and Serena cat-fought over him, and I don't get him here, where he's playing (Significant Name Alert!) Billy LeFever, a small-town hustler with big-money dreams.

The smooth-talking, big-lying oil magnate Hap Briggs (Don Johnson) is supposed to take one look at Billy and see a protégé, a master manipulator in the making.

But Crawford is so blank-eyed that I don't believe he could solve the mystery of what's in his sack lunch.

TV execs are always banging on about the importance of an actor's "likeability." But for me it's not about someone's likeability. It's about whether or not I like to watch them exist, and Crawford doesn't make that cut.

It's precisely the reason I'm addicted to Justified. I like its air of Ozark menace, but I'd watch it even if I didn't, because I — along with nearly every woman I know — am smitten with its star, inarguable hunk Timothy Olyphant, who plays U.S. Marshall Raylan Givens.

I like Olyphant's forearms, his long legs, his honey-gravel voice.

I like when he takes off his hat to kiss a girl.

I like the way he stands, and I like the way he sits. Sure, there are plots, and many of them are gripping. But Olyphant sits really, really well.

Sometimes that's enough. Sometimes, that's everything.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

VICTORIA'S SECRET

Gigi Hadid makes her debut as angel

Some lit up, others were pretty — and patriotic — in pink and still more burst forth like fireworks.

Yes, Tuesday was Victoria's Secret sexpot angel time, though the masses will have to wait until 10 p.m. EST on Dec. 8 to watch the 20th annual lingerie extravaganza on CBS. This was just the taping, including musical performances by The Weeknd, Ellie Goulding and Selena Gomez, after Rihanna abruptly cancelled.

Veteran VS walkers like Lily Aldridge and Alessandra Ambrosio were joined by newbie angels, including Martha Hunt and Elsa Hosk. Kendall Jenner and Gigi Hadid were among the non-winged supermodels new to the glitzy show that generates weeks of advance buzz and will be seen in 192 countries by more than 500 million people, according to company officials.

In all, 47 models blew air kisses, flirted on stage with the camera and flipped their varied wings around as they strutted on the runway in 75 looks at a Manhattan armoury. But first, there was hair and makeup to be done and a "pink carpet" of celebrity guests to be walked. Questlove and Nick Cannon were on hand, along with a dapper member of the Mets, Matt Harvey, in a black Versace suit.

Caitlyn Jenner was among those who attended the runway show to cheer on daughter Kendall.

Hadid said backstage that she has big respect for the veteran angels and hopes to earn her own wings one day. Brand new angel Rachel Hilbert, from Rochester, New York, was in the Pink USA squad on the runway, and was also in awe of the longtime ladies, including Brazilian beauty Adriana Lima, seated just inches away on a comfy white couch in rollers backstage.

"Uh, yeah, Adriana Lima. She's sitting right there," Hilbert smiled as all wore pink-and-white striped robes, curlers in their hair, while manicures, pedicures, spray tanning and makeup commenced. "She's such a sweetheart. Her advice was just breathe and just take it in."

So how were the nerves for the newcomers?

"Actually, surprisingly, not bad," Hadid said before the show. "I was really nervous in rehearsal."

She shared the stage later with Gomez and Goulding.

"I love both of them," said Hadid, who fell to the floor and gasped in a video of her audition, when she was told she was picked.

As for her famous curves, she prepared with the help of boxing and ballet.

"A lot of sweating and then just focusing on smaller parts because when everything's in high-def you have to not forget about the little things," Hadid said. "I've watched the show my entire life and this has been such a dream."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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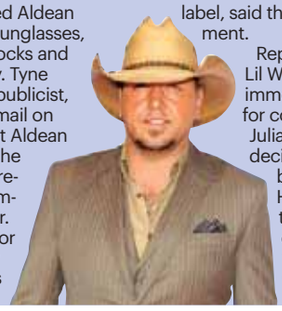
GOSSIP BRIEFS

Country music superstar dresses in blackface

Country star Jason Aldean dressed as rapper Lil Wayne for Halloween, a representative confirmed after a photo surfaced of him wearing blackface makeup and a wig with dreadlocks.

The picture, first posted by the website NashvilleGab.com, showed Aldean dressed in sunglasses, long dreadlocks and gold jewelry. Tyne Parrish, his publicist, said in an email on Tuesday that Aldean dressed as the rapper, but refused to comment further. A publicist for Broken Bow Records, his label, said they had no comment.



Representatives for Lil Wayne were not immediately available for comment.

Julianne Hough's decision to don blackface for Halloween to portray her favourite character from the Netflix show Orange is the New Black sparked an uproar and drew an eventual apology from the actress, who said she never intended to hurt anyone. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Priestly to be back in the saddle soon

Jason Priestley says he's on the mend after suffering a concussion falling off a horse.

Priestley was shooting a scene for his Toronto-shot upcoming TV series, The Code, when the accident happened Monday.

Producers say he was taken to hospital as a precaution and discharged the same day.

The former Beverly Hills, 90210 star adds on Twitter that he was advised to take a few days off but looks forward to getting back to work.

Production on The Code is expected to resume next week. Priestley plays a former pro hockey player who uses his ability to read people in his new gig as a crime-solving private investigator. The Code is set to premiere on Global next spring. THE CANADIAN PRESS

DISNEY

Pirate role landed Depp in hot water

Remember back before 2003's Pirates of the Caribbean came out and Johnny Depp was a successful and well-respected actor known for challenging indie roles? Well, apparently the role that turned the tide and made him a blockbuster movie star was almost too challenging — at least for the Disney brass in charge of Pirates, as Depp's work gave them some major pause.

"They wanted to fire me. I fully expected to be fired, and I got a call from the upper echelon at Disney who were courageous enough to ask me, 'What the f— are you doing?'" Depp tells Moviefone.

"The questions came up, 'Is (the performance) drunk? Is it gay?' All I could say was, because they set me up with a great line, I said, 'Well, don't you know all my characters are gay?' I really expected to be fired, but I wasn't for some reason. They were actually going to put subtitles under my character. They couldn't understand Captain Jack."

"Don't you know all my characters are gay?" GETTY IMAGES

Listen, while it's great that they didn't fire him off that first Pirates film, considering the idea for the sequels wouldn't have been so bad. NED EHRBAR/METRO HOLLYWOOD

Conscious humblebrag: Gwyn does divorce best

FAMILY

Goop founder takes credit for reimagining the breakup

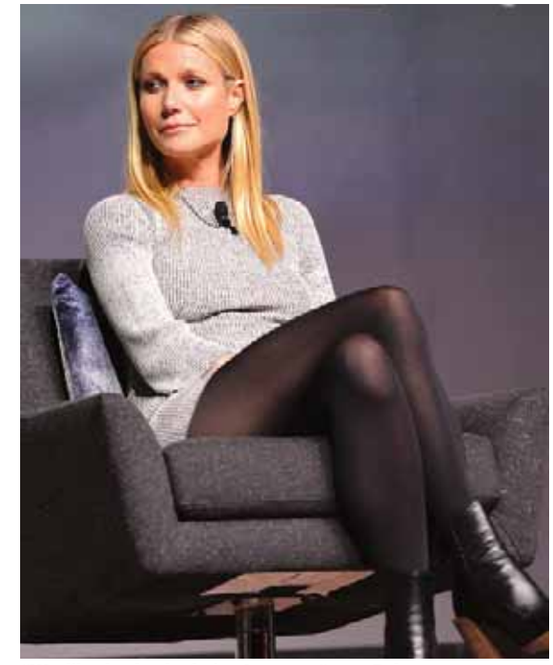
Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood

Man, Gwyneth Paltrow will just not shut up about all this "conscious uncoupling" stuff, huh? In fact, she's pretty sure that if anyone deserves the whole "broke the Internet" title, it's her and ex-husband Chris Martin.

"When I was announcing my husband and I were separating and we were trying to follow this specific way of doing it — and the philosophy is conscious uncoupling — and we, like, broke the f—king Internet," Paltrow said during a Goop-sponsored Q&A hosted by Fast Company this week.

"It's such a hard time personally and then you have this added layer of all this criticism. Then when you look back you go, 'Well, this is actually kind of a good thing to talk back, introducing in some way.' Like, what if you could break up in a way where you remain a family even though you're not a couple?"

Good job, just don't pull anything patting yourself on the back there.



"We, like, broke the f—ing Internet," says Paltrow. GETTY IMAGES

Paltrow also announced she is launching a lifestyle publishing line called, of course, goop.

Paltrow's goop press will be curated in conjunction with Grand Central Life & Style, an imprint of Grand Central Publishing. The first release will be Paltrow's It's All Easy cookbook, which comes out in April. A beauty book is scheduled for next fall.

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metro HOME

Your essential daily news

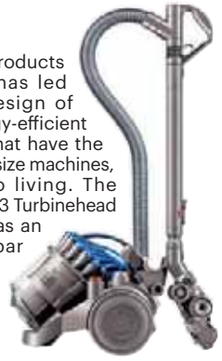
Median prices for detached Vancouver-area properties set to shatter $1-million mark: Forecast

Accessorize your condo

Choosing accessories for your condo is a fun way to add value and versatility to your living space. Here are some trendy products ranging from small and not-so-small appliances to fab bathroom fixtures and Fab Four-era furnishings. **DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO**

1 Clean

Innovative home products company Dyson has led the way in the design of compact and energy-efficient vacuum cleaners that have the performance of full-size machines, perfect for condo living. The futuristic Dyson DC23 Turbinehead canister vacuum has an air-driven brush bar that spins 90 times per second.



3 Cook

To accessorize your kitchen, where do we start? How about ovens: High-end European appliances are the kind of upgrade that makes a great investment and adds sizzle to your condo. Bertazzoni's six-burner gas range in candy-apple red is painted in an Italian sports car factory and retails for $6,000. You can check out the complete range of ranges at the Distinctive Appliances Kitchen Lifestyle Centre at SoFA on Airport Road.

4 Brew

No condo should be without an espresso maker, be it steam-driven, piston-driven, pump-driven, automatic, semi-automatic, super-automatic, air pressure, stove top — it gets complicated. To keep it simple, a company called Keurig has taken the java market by storm. With their easy-to-use, single-serving pod system, you can instantly brew any number of beverages, from hot cocoa to specialty coffees, lattes, macchiatos and cappuccinos.

5 Cool

Also from Dyson are their bladeless fans, which are both functional and sculptural. The Dyson Cool products use air multiplier technology to draw in and amplify the surrounding air. There are no fast-spinning blades so there's no need for safety grilles. The 10-inch AM06 desk fan retails for $300 from Dyson Canada.

2 Retro

Interior designers, it seems, have a nostalgia for the 1960s, from vinyl records to hanging basket chairs — anything Mad Men retro is groovy. Take for example the fabulous loft condo in the St. Lawrence Market district available for rent to travellers. The apartment is fully decked out in furniture and collectibles from the '50s and '60s by designers Bernhard Pedersen, Grete Jalk and Charles and Ray Eames.

6 Bath

When it comes to bathrooms, the big trend is shower columns, says Sam Beninato, principal at the Toronto-based renoWOW! concept store. The popular multi-jet, spa-like shower systems make a reasonably inexpensive upgrade that adds impact to your condo bathroom. "That's the big thing that we're seeing right now because it works very well in condo environments," says Beninato.

PHOTOS COURTESY: 1 & 5: DYSON CANADA; 2: TONY HILLEBRANDT; 3: DISTINCTIVE APPLIANCES INC.; 4: WALMART; 6: RENOWOW!

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REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1 NORTH YORK

Preview opening: The Fifth on the Park condos at Emerald City is holding a VIP event. Check it out at the sales centre at Don Mills and Sheppard Avenue East, right across from Fairview Mall, on Nov. 14 from 12 to 2 p.m.
CONTACT: 416-492-0001, INFO@FIFTHONTHEPARK.CA

2 NORTH YORK

Now open: VIDA at Bayview Village, boutique-inspired condos by Castle Group Developments. Head over to the presentation centre at 621 Sheppard Ave. E.
CONTACT: 416-304-1212, VIDACONDOS.COM

3 TORONTO

Open house: This renovated four-plus-bedroom home in prestigious Regal Heights will be shown this weekend. Make your way to 78 Glenholme Ave., on Nov. 14 and 15 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
CONTACT: JAMES BENSON, 416-465-4545

Your home deserves a professional touch

Bryan Tuckey
For Metro Canada

Buying or building a custom home or renovating your existing home is a significant investment and it's important to ensure that any builder or renovator you work with is a licensed legitimate professional.

Renovating can be a great alternative to moving into a new home and a professional renovator is key to a successful renovation. Professional renovators have the necessary licences and permits, are up to date on the latest building code regulations and understand the municipal requirements needed to obtain building permits.

Professional renovators and contractors offer warranties on their work and are insured for any on-site issues. They always work with detailed written contracts that spell out a clear project plan. This is the sign of a true professional. Beware of anyone who offers to renovate your home without a contract. If you don't get all the details in writing, you may not be able to hold the renovator accountable if you receive substandard work.

The same scenario applies if you are building or buying a new home from a custom home builder.

The first sign that you are working with a legitimate professional builder is that the company is registered with Tarion, the organization that administers the Ontario New Home Warranties Plan Act. Anyone building or selling a new home in Ontario must be registered with Tarion, and all new homes must be enrolled with Tarion — it's the law.

All new homes built and sold in Ontario come with a warranty and the builder must enrol the home with Tarion before construction begins. The warranty covers everything from building code violations, to water damage and major structural defects of your home.

ONLINE HELP

To find professional renovators, trade contractors and custom builders, use an online resource like RenoMark.ca. The website features a searchable database of local professionals and is available in 40 municipalities across Canada.

Don't be afraid to call references to ensure that you are working with a true professional. Your home is one of the biggest assets you will own in your lifetime. It deserves the attention of a professional.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @BILDGTA, FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA, AND BILDBLOGS.CA.

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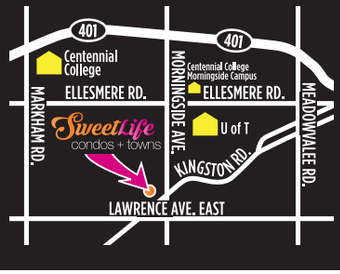

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Bold individuality in redevelopment

CONTRIBUTED

SQ2 AT ALEXANDRA PARK

Project overview

The next phase of Tridel's master-planned redevelopment of Toronto's Alexandra Park community, SQ2 will consist of a 14-storey condo tower and five townhome units. With architect Stephen Teeple's signature cube-like design, the dramatic greys of the building display a bold individuality.

Building amenities

Residents will have access to a fully equipped fitness centre with yoga and Pilates studios. There's a party room with fireplace lounge, catering kitchen and private dining room. The outdoor rooftop terrace has barbecues, a dining area and a sundeck with a hot tub.

Location and transit

Located steps from the vibrant intersection of Spadina and Queen Street West, SQ2 boasts walk and transit scores of 100. The building is near the Queen Street and College TTC routes, as well as the Yonge-University subway and the Gardiner Expressway and Lake Shore Boulevard.

In the neighbourhood

The building is surrounded by many cultural, educational and entertainment destinations. The University of Toronto, OCAD and Ryerson University are all a short walk away. The Kensington Market and renowned shopping and dining of Queen Street West are also close by.

INFORMATION WAS ACCURATE AT TIME OF PUBLISHING.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

What: SQ2 at Alexandra Park
Builder: Tridel
Architect: Teeple Architects
Interiors: Union31
Location: Spadina Avenue and Queen Street West
Building: A 14-storey tower with 169 units and five townhomes
Sizes: Suites from 538 to 1,279 sq. ft. Townhomes are 2,053 sq. ft.
Pricing: Suites from the mid-$300,000s and townhomes from $1.295 million
Suites: The tower ranges from one to three bedrooms. Townhomes have three bedrooms.
Status: Pre-construction phase
Occupancy: Summer 2018
Sales centre: 519 Queen St. W.
Hours: Monday to Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Weekends and holidays, 12 to 6 p.m. Closed Fridays
Phone: 416-661-1949
Website: tridel.com
Email: sq@tridel.com

LEGAL MATTERS

Death presents unique issues for purchases of property

Jeffrey Cowan
For Metro Canada

Q: My younger brother recently passed away and it was discovered that he had purchased a couple of pre-build condominiums as investments. Neither of them are yet built but my parents, who are my brother's beneficiaries and on a fixed income, cannot afford the eventual mortgage costs and are not interested in purchasing the property. Are they as heirs responsible for closing these two properties?

A: A person's passing presents unique problems for contracted purchases of property. The first item to cross off is to make sure that there is no provision in the agreement of purchase and sale that the contract will be binding upon the "heirs and beneficiaries" of the purchaser if he/she were to pass away. This is crucial because the purchaser's beneficiaries can then request that the builders cancel the contract based upon the doctrine of frustration.

This legal concept basically allows a party to set aside contracts where an unforeseen event either renders contractual obligations impossible, or radically changes the party's principal purpose for entering into the contract. Obviously, death of one of the contracting parties would fall within this definition.

You should contact your late brother's lawyer to request that the builders set aside the agreements.

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Belgian international Laurent Ciman of the Montreal Impact has been voted MLS defender of the year

Raps deepen 76ers' woes

NBA

Lowry hits 23 as Philadelphia winless streak extends to 8

TUESDAY in Philly

119	103
RAPTORS	76ERS

Kyle Lowry scored 23 points and Luis Scola had 21 to lead the Toronto Raptors to a 119-103 victory over the winless Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday night.

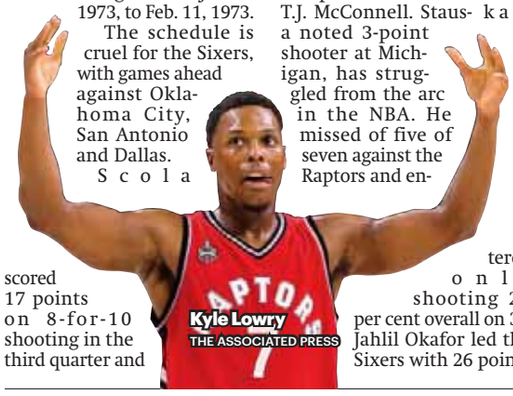
One year after starting 0-17, the sorry Sixers have lost their first eight games of this season.

Philadelphia has lost 18 straight games dating to March 27, 2015. That's the fourth-longest mark in franchise history, one shy of the 19 straight dropped from March 21, 1972, to Nov. 10, 1972.

The Sixers matched an NBA record with 26 straight losses from Jan. 31, 2014, to March 27, 2014, and also lost 20 straight from Jan. 9, 1973, to Feb. 11, 1973.

The schedule is cruel for the Sixers, with games ahead against Oklahoma City, San Antonio and Dallas.

Scola scored 17 points on 8-for-10 shooting in the third quarter and helped Toronto put away the game.



Kyle Lowry
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lowry, a Philadelphia native who played two seasons at Villanova, heard polite applause during pregame introductions and gave the hometown fans plenty of reason to cheer.

He scored 14 points in the first half, capped by a 27-footer with 0.9 seconds left to send the Raptors into halftime with a 63-57 lead.

The Raptors built a 20-point lead in the third and left no doubt about the outcome. Not that there was any at tipoff.

While the Raptors had four starters in double-digit scoring, the Sixers started marginal NBA players JaKarr Sampson, Nik Stauskas and T.J. McConnell. Staus-kas, a noted 3-point shooter at Michigan, has struggled from the arc in the NBA. He missed of five of seven against the Raptors and entered only shooting 29 per cent overall on 3s. Jahlil Okafor led the Sixers with 26 points and had seven rebounds. McConnell had 13 assists and Jerami Grant had 12 points and 10 rebounds.

The Raptors beat the Sixers for the ninth straight time, the longest winning streak on either side in 20 years of the series. They play their next six games against the Western Conference.

Toronto coach Dwane Casey said he did not want to look back at a referee mistake that cost them in the final minute of a 111-109 loss to New York on Tuesday night.

Crew chief Ed Malloy said postgame that Carmelo Anthony stepped out of bounds and the ball should have been awarded to Toronto.

Casey said he was an advocate of replay in a situation like that one.

"We have some of the best officials in the league, in the world," Casey said.

"It's honourable that the league admits it, but you take that and $3 and you won't get a cup of coffee."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Philadelphia 76ers' JaKarr Sampson, second from right, battles for a loose ball with Toronto Raptors' Cory Joseph, second from left, as Toronto's Kyle Lowry, left, and Norman Powell watch on Wednesday in Philadelphia. MATT SLOCUM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CURLING

Gushue back in action after head-injury absence

Veteran curler Brad Gushue returned to action Wednesday for the first time since suffering a head injury last month. The St. John's skip opened against Saskatoon's Steve Laycock in the late-afternoon draw at The National at General Motors Centre.

Gushue needed seven stitches to close a gash above his right eye after he fell Oct. 31 at The Masters in Truro, N.S. He lost his balance and landed head first on the ice. Gushue thinks a buildup of frost on his shoe's gripper may have caused him to fall.

Gushue went down in the fourth end, got stitched up at a nearby hospital, and returned in the seventh end of a 5-2 quarter-final loss to Laycock.

He said he experienced concussion-like symptoms after he left the arena and again the next day. Gushue underwent a CT scan when he returned home and rested for almost a week. Gushue, 35, won Olympic gold at the 2006 Winter Games in Turin, Italy.

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Brad Gushue
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Leafs respond to coach

PROTEAU TYPE

Adam Proteau

As the Maple Leafs' season unfolds, many things are clear: The organization's Stanley Cup-contending days remain a ways off; defencemen Morgan Rielly is the team's top player, both in the present and for the foreseeable future; and Buds fans understand and accept the patience it will require to build a top-line roster.

But what stands out most of all: The money spent to bring in head coach Mike Babcock has been worth every penny.

From the moment Babcock signed an eight-year, $50-million contract with Toronto in May, his effect on the franchise has been pronounced. The 52-year-old's resumé — including a Stanley Cup championship and two Olympic gold medals — is as good as it gets, but it's his relentless drive and determination that's influenced Leafs players in the best way.

For instance: Where once Toronto's players took to the ice for practice at the precise moment the session was scheduled to start, they now can be found putting themselves through their paces 10 or 15 minutes early. That's not going to win them Cups, but it is an indication players are fully behind their coach and his desire to improve every day.

In addition, Babcock is becoming famous for challenging his charges to become better in every way possible, and Rielly is a perfect example. The 21-year-old currently leads Toronto in points — and while you'd think that would earn him more opportunities on offence, the opposite is true. Knowing that the youngster's instincts with the puck can't be taught, Babcock wants Rielly to improve his defensive game. Not every coach would do so, but Babcock has contractual security and the support of management necessary to make those types of requests, and Rielly's performance is growing by leaps and bounds.

11

Number of points Morgan Rielly has in the Maple Leafs' first 15 games, leading the team.

To the players' credit, the entire team's identity has changed to mirror that of Babcock. Where once the Leafs would fold up shop after losing a lead, the roster now keeps the collective pedal pushed down fully, never giving up. That much was evident in the Buds' 3-2 win over Dallas Tuesday: the Stars took a 2-1 lead early in the third period, but Toronto roared back with two late goals to give them their third win of the year.

Those types of wins — or any types of wins — may not be plentiful the rest of the season, but right now, the Leafs' culture has changed, and for the better.

That's partially on the players, but mostly on the man behind the bench.

Morgan Rielly
CLAUS ANDERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

SOCCER

Blatter still in hospital after 'small breakdown'

Sepp Blatter remains in a Swiss hospital after what his spokesman called a "small breakdown" related to stress.

The 79-year-old suspended FIFA president expects to leave the hospital next Monday, Zurich-based spokesman Klaus Stoehlker told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "(Blatter) will be back officially in business on Tuesday next week," Stoehlker said in a telephone interview. "The checkup is finished and he is recovering."

On Friday, Blatter's American lawyer told the AP that he was at a hospital. Blatter is appealing against his 90-day provisional ban by the FIFA ethics committee over suspected financial misconduct. He still hopes to host the Ballon d'Or award ceremony in Zurich on Jan. 11, after the suspension expires, Gagg said.

Blatter's main goal is to host the FIFA election congress on Feb. 26, Gagg said.

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SHAYNE CORSON

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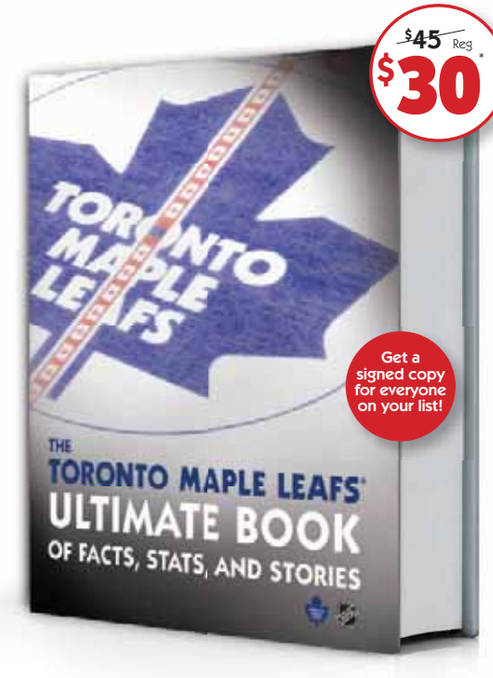
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Facing their demons

CFL SEMIFINALS PREVIEW

History not on side of Lions or Argonauts in semifinals

Playing at Tim Hortons Field has been a nightmare for Toronto (10-8), which is 0-3 there versus Hamilton (10-8) and 0-5 overall (including two relocated games this year). But going on the road is nothing new for the Argos, who played 13 of their 18 regular-season games away from Rogers Centre and were a respectable 7-6. After going 7-0 at the venue last year, the Ticats won their first three home games this year but have dropped four of their last six games there since.

The Ticats were 8-3 and playing like definite Grey Cup contenders before quarterback Zach Collaros suffered a season-ending knee injury in a 25-18 home loss to Edmonton on Sept. 19.

They finished the regular season losing three straight, including a home-and-home series with Ottawa that earned the Redblacks first in the East. Collaros was also 3-0 against the Argos, his former team, and it's unclear if rookie backup Jeff Mathews will play Sunday after missing last weekend's contest with a head injury. Even if Mathews does play, Hamilton's offence is a different unit without Collaros.

Pick — Toronto.

The Ticats have yet to adequately replace injured quarterback Zach Collaros. JEFF VINNICK/GETTY IMAGES

Jonathon Jennings and the B.C. Lions won't have history on their side when they march into Calgary Sunday.

Jennings and Co. visit the defending Grey Cup champions in the West Division semifinal. Calgary won the season series 2-0, including a 28-7 decision last weekend in Vancouver.

Calgary (14-4) finished tied with Edmonton for the CFL's best regular-season record. But the Eskimos won the season series 2-1 and the right to host either the Stampeders or Lions in the West Division final Nov. 22.

B.C. (7-11) finished third in the West. Also on Sunday, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats host the Toronto Argonauts in the East Division semifinal. The winner takes on the Ottawa Redblacks at TD Place on Nov. 22.

This will mark the 12th playoff meeting between Calgary and B.C., with the Stampeders having won eight of them. They're also 5-0 in the semifinal round.

Calgary has also won three straight post-season contests against B.C., including the 2008 and '12 West Division finals, respectively.

But it's Jennings who holds the key for B.C. In his six games as the club's starter, the six-foot, 195-pound former Saginaw Valley State star ranks third overall in passing yards — behind Ottawa's Henry Burris and Edmonton's Mike Reilly — but stands first in TD strikes (15) and quarterback efficiency (108.9).

Jennings, 23, became just the sixth quarterback in league history to exceed 1,000 yards passing in his first three starts, Historically, only Jeff Garcia and Tobin Rote threw for more yards than Jennings' total of 1,017 over that span.

He'll now face a Calgary defence that allowed a league-low 16.1 points per game, was ranked second against the pass (246.6 yards per game) and third versus the run (77.8 yards).

And there's the matter of having to play Calgary at McMahon Stadium. The Stampeders finished tied with Edmonton for the CFL's best home record at 8-1, the lone loss coming against the Eskimos.

B.C. was also just 3-6 on the road this season.

Pick: Calgary.

108.9

Quarterback efficiency rating of B.C.'s Jonathon Jennings, the highest in the CFL this season.

WADA REPORT

Putin orders probe into doping claims

Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered an investigation into allegations of widespread doping among the country's sports figures.

Putin called for the investigation in a late-night meeting Wednesday with the heads of Russia's sports federations. The meeting comes in the wake of Monday's report by a commission of the World Anti-Doping Agency that said Russian sports is plagued by extensive, state-sanctioned doping.

The allegations have raised the prospect of Russia's track and field athletes being denied participation in next year's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Putin ordered Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko and "all colleagues connected with sport" to pay close attention to the doping allegations and for an internal investigation to be conducted — guaranteeing full co-operation with international anti-doping bodies. Earlier, Russia's sports minister said the country can deal with alleged widespread doping problems on its own.

Mutko was quoted by Russian news agencies as saying Wednesday that Russia holds the Word Anti-Doping Agency commission that reported on Russian problems and its findings "in due respect."

He said: "we agree with the commission's main findings that doping is not a problem of Russia but of the whole world and the doping problems cannot be resolved within one country."

Mutko adds that "Russia is capable of dealing with the problems named in the commission's report independently, and we will do it for sure."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian president Vladimir Putin GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Humphries' four-man plan runs into problems

Olympic women's bobsleigh champion Kaillie Humphries wants to pilot four-man sleds on the World Cup circuit in addition to her women's races. But she says Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton will not let her. "I've never been in a situation where my goals and dreams have not aligned with Bobsleigh Canada's," Humphries said Wednesday.

Humphries and Elana Meyers Taylor of the U.S. were the first women to pilot male crews on the World Cup circuit last season.

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PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Your family will love the freshness of the lemon in this dish. You'll love how you barely had to lift a finger.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 500 g package of linguini or spaghetti
- Juice of 2 lemons
- 1 Tbsp of lemon zest
- 6 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 cups grated Parmesan cheese
- Handful of basil, washed and sliced into strips
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions
1. Cook pasta according to the package instructions. Meanwhile, whisk together the lemon juice and zest, oil and 1 1/2 cups of the cheese. Don't worry if it's gloopy.
2. Scoop out 1/2 cup of the pasta cooking water and set it aside, then drain the noodles. Put the pasta back in the cooking pot. Pour the lemon mixture over the pasta and toss well until all the noodles are coated. Add a splash of your reserved pasta water if you need to loosen up the dish. Add the basil and toss. Season with salt and pepper to taste and serve.

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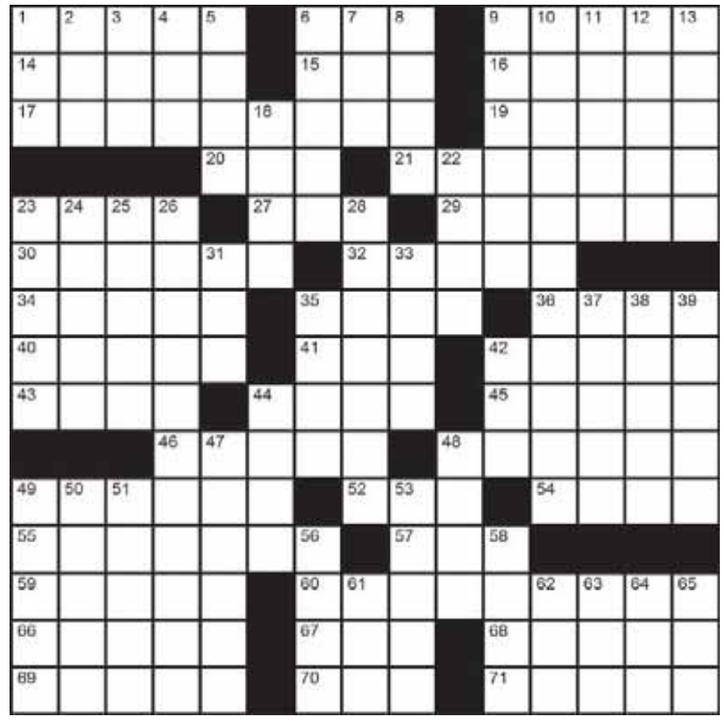
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. "The Wonder _"
6. Gladiator's 102
9. Canyon opening
14. Bird-related
15. Journalist Ms. Curry
16. Game with a jackpot
17. New album by Canadian rap star Kardinal Offishall: '_ _, Vol. 1: The Clash'
19. Group of eight
20. The _ (Manitoba's cap.)
21. Deliverer's deliveree
23. Surrounded by
27. Bon _ (Clever remark)
29. "_ the car?" (Shopper's parking lot query)
30. De-peeling devices
32. Bill _ & His Comets
34. Examine
35. Current affairs
36. Umbrella blower-awayer
40. Charles M. Schulz drawn character
41. Battery size
42. Wedding _ (Keepsake of the big day)
43. The _ Coast
44. Tiny, _-bitty
45. Avoid
46. One with a pad and paper
48. Chop, as a butcher
49. Tiered temple
52. Blue-_ (Soothing cream on TV commercials)
54. Toboggan
55. Lines between brows, as dubbed in the world of Botox injections
57. Dinner tidbit
59. Comic actor Tim
60. 1605-established French settlement in Nova Scotia
66. Canadian rebel Louis, and surnamesakes
67. _. date (Food label info)
68. Recipe's oil source, perhaps
69. Dita Von _ (Queen of Burlesque)
70. Play-_
71. Precept

DOWN
1. Tibetan ox
2. Supermodel Ms. Herzigova
3. Ventilate
4. "Way cool."
5. Crop
6. Nautical haulage
7. "Barefoot Contessa" chef Ms. Garten
8. Police dept. rank
9. Bell: French
10. W Network docuseries: 2 wds.
11. Fragrant oil from flowers
12. Phase
13. Styles
18. Tiara twinklers
22. Shoemaker's tools
23. Fab Four created label
24. "West Side Story" (1961) role
25. Actor Jeremy
26. First big releases by writers, for example: 2 wds.
28. Dramatist's realm
31. Hi-_ graphics
33. On the road
35. Decorator on TV Mr. Berkus
37. Model of perfection
38. Chutzpah
39. Spoiled, _ on
42. _-d'Or, Quebec
44. "I'd consider _ _ honour..."
47. Danish writer Hans Christian Andersen's birthplace
48. Terse
49. Neil _ (Rush band member)
50. "Kate & _" ('80s sitcom)
51. Jelly: French
53. Change shape
56. Hotfooted it
58. Gait at the stables
61. Cubed food flavouring brand
62. "_ Buttermilk Sky" by Hoagy Carmichael
63. Yang's counterpart
64. "_ Maria"
65. Tennis call

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You will have to confront your feelings about someone you deal with on a daily basis. You may not like them much but in some way your fates are linked, so do what you can to keep things friendly.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Slow down. You have been pushing yourself extremely hard and, yes, you have accomplished a lot. But after every period of exertion must come a period of rest, so take a break!

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Feelings of self-doubt that have been holding you back are sure to be swept away today, tomorrow and this weekend. Get over your fear of losing and great things will come.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
A loved one or relative has been a real pain recently but you have an obligation to help them, even when their troubles are self-inflicted. You will be called on to make even more sacrifices over the next few days. Do so willingly.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
The line between helping a friend and interfering in their personal affairs may at times be difficult to judge but if someone you know needs assistance today you must ride to their rescue.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
No matter how well things are going financially don't take chances with what you own and earn.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Mars moving into your sign today means it is time to get active. Knuckle down, work hard and start getting ahead in whatever field you wish to make your mark.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you need assistance, ask for it. If you pretend that nothing is wrong others will assume that you are on top of things and will not help.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You need a challenge and you are about to get it. Most likely it will be the kind of challenge that you cannot handle on your own, so it will encourage you to seek help from like-minded people. You cannot be self-sufficient all the time.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
There are times when you have to roll up your sleeves and get involved. Mars moving into the career area of your chart means you will get the chance to impress important people. Don't waste it.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Don't limit your imagination. If you can dream it you can be it with Mars in Libra between now and the end of the year.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You cannot turn back the clock and change the past but you can learn from your experiences. Also, promise yourself that both now and in the future you won't let so many great opportunities go begging.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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			4	3		9		
	6						7	
		4		7	1			
	5		9					
7		6		5			2	
	8							1

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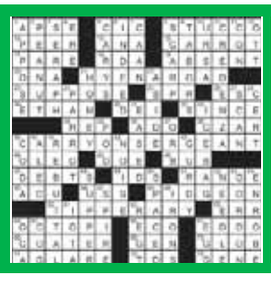

9	2	3	5	1	6	8	7	4
1	8	5	7	4	9	3	6	2
7	4	6	3	8	2	1	9	5
2	9	7	1	5	4	6	8	3
5	1	8	6	9	3	2	4	7
6	3	4	8	2	7	9	5	1
8	7	2	4	6	1	5	3	9
3	6	9	2	7	5	4	1	8
4	5	1	9	3	8	7	2	6

THE HYUNDAI ADVANTAGE ☑

EXTENDED FOR A LIMITED TIME

OFFERS SO AMAZING, IT'S NO WONDER THE COMPETITION IS STUMPED.

2016 ELANTRA GL AUTO

HWY: 6.7L/100 KM
CITY: 9.7L/100 KM▼

Limited model shown♦

- ☑ HEATED FRONT SEATS
- ☑ AIR CONDITIONING
- ☑ REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY
- ☑ BLUETOOTH® HANDS-FREE PHONE SYSTEM

$4,000 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ + **0%** FINANCING† FOR 48 MONTHS

2016 ACCENT 4-DOOR GL

HWY: 6.3L/100 KM
CITY: 8.9L/100 KM▼

4-Door GL model shown♦

Accent BEST SELLING Sub-Compact Car since 2009*

- ☑ AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION
- ☑ AIR CONDITIONING
- ☑ BLUETOOTH® HANDS-FREE PHONE SYSTEM
- ☑ HEATED FRONT SEATS

LEASE FOR ONLY $79 BIWEEKLY

THAT'S LIKE PAYING **$39** WEEKLY | AT **0%** | FOR **24** MONTHS WITH $795 DOWN◊

INCLUDES $2,000 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS!Ω

PLUS 5-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY†† ON ALL HYUNDAI MODELS

THE ALL-NEW 2016 TUCSON 2.0L FWD

HWY: 9.3L/100 KM
CITY: 11.6L/100 KM▼

2015 IIHS TOP SAFETY PICK+ WHEN EQUIPPED WITH AVAILABLE AUTONOMOUS EMERGENCY BRAKING (AEB). For more information, visit www.iihs.org

1.6T Ultimate AWD model shown♦

- ☑ REARVIEW CAMERA
- ☑ BLUETOOTH® HANDS-FREE PHONE SYSTEM
- ☑ HEATED FRONT SEATS
- ☑ AUTOMATIC HEADLIGHTS WITH LED DAYTIME RUNNING LIGHTS

LEASE FOR ONLY $138 BIWEEKLY

THAT'S LIKE PAYING **$69** WEEKLY | AT **1.49%** | FOR **60** MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN◊

2016 SANTA FE SPORT

HWY: 9.7L/100 KM
CITY: 12.9L/100 KM▼

2.0T Limited model shown♦

- ☑ 17" ALLOY WHEELS
- ☑ 4-WAY ADJUSTABLE DRIVER'S SEAT WITH 2-WAY POWER LUMBAR SUPPORT
- ☑ HEATED FRONT SEATS
- ☑ 40/20/40 SPLIT-FOLDING SECOND-ROW SEATS

$2,000 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ | PLUS GET **0%** FINANCING† | FOR **84** MONTHS

ON ALL SANTA FE SPORT MODELS

Dealers may charge additional fees for administration of up to $499. Charges may vary by Dealer.

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5 YEAR WARRANTY

- 5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty††
- 5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
- 5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty
- 5-year/Unlimited km 24 Hour Roadside Assistance

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